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The Truth Speaks

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TRUCE TALKS FALL FLAT!

US-Israel-Iran War: After marathon negotiations in Pakistan, US Vice-President JD Vance says Iran is choosing not to accept US truce terms, while Iran says it did not expect a deal in the first meeting

21 hours of negotiations were not enough to end 47 years of hostility between the two nations;

ISLAMABAD

Truce talks between Iran and the US held in Islamabad on Saturday, with senior negotiators from both countries meeting face to face at the highest level for the first time since 1979, in the presence of mediators from Pakistan failed to yield any result. Yes, 21 hours was not enough to end 47 years of hostility between the two nations.

Calling this marathon negotiating session a failure belies the scale of the challenge in narrowing wide gaps on complex issues ranging from age-old suspicion about Iran's nuclear programme to new challenges this war has thrown up - most of all Iran's control of the strategic Strait of Hormuz, whose closure is causing economic shocks worldwide. To do a deal, they also needed to overcome a deep chasm of distrust.

A day ago, it wasn't even certain the two sides would meet, and even more, sit down in the same room face-to-face. With the brokerage of Pakistan, a long-standing political taboo was broken. The question now is: what's next?

'No agreement reached'

Washington: After the meet ended, US Vice-President JD Vance said negotiators were unable to reach an agreement acceptable to both sides. He said Tehran has refused to accept Washington's terms after 21 hours of negotiations in Islamabad. "The bad news is that we have not reached an agreement, and I think that's bad news for Iran much more than it's bad news for the US," Vance, the head of the US delegation, told reporters on Sunday, shortly before he left Islamabad after the highest-level meeting between Washington and Tehran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. "We need to see an affirmative commitment that they will not seek a nuclear weapon and they will not seek the tools that would enable them to quickly achieve a nuclear weapon," he said.

'Iran said a BIG NO to US'

Tehran: After inconclusive talks, the blame game has begun with Iran saying US was unable to gain Tehran's trust. The United States "failed" to win Iran's trust during historic negotiations in Pakistan aimed at resolving the West Asia conflict, the top Iranian negotiator said on Sunday. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, the Iranian Parliament Speaker who led his country's delegation in peace talks, made the remarks after the two sides failed to reach an agreement. In a series of posts on X, Ghalibaf said that the Iranian delegation raised "forward-looking initiatives, but the opposite side ultimately failed to win the trust of the Iranian delegation. While the the Iranian embassy in Ghana on X stated, "Iran said a BIG NO. The talks are over. The Strait is still closed. And the VP is flying home empty-handed."

'US NAVY WILL SOON BEGIN HOMUZ BLOCKADE'

WASHINGTON

After failure to reach a breakthrough in Islamabad talks on Saturday, US President Donald Trump on Sunday declared that "Effective immediately, the United States Navy, the Finest in the World, will begin the process of BLOCKADING any and all Ships trying to enter, or leave, the Strait of Hormuz," while contemplating that "At some point, we will reach an 'ALL BEING ALLOWED TO GO IN, ALL BEING ALLOWED TO GO OUT' basis."

We will also begin destroying the mines the Iranians laid in the Straits. Any Iranian who fires at us, or at peaceful vessels, will be BLOWN TO HELL!

—Donald Trump, US President

The US president accused Iran of blocking shipping through the vital waterway and extorting tolls, stating that America will never be extorted.

"Iran has not allowed that to happen by merely saying, 'There may be a mine out there somewhere,' that nobody knows about but them. THIS IS WORLD EXTORTION, and Leaders of Countries, especially the United States of America, will never be extorted," he added in two lengthy Truth Social posts.

The US Navy has been instructed to "seek and interdict every vessel in International Waters that has paid a toll to Iran. No one who pays an illegal toll will have safe passage on the high seas," Trump said, adding that "We will also begin destroying the mines the Iranians laid in the Straits. Any Iranian who fires at us, or at peaceful vessels, will be BLOWN TO HELL!"

Trump threatens China with 50% tariff if it helps Iran

Trump threatened China with "staggering" new tariffs on its goods entering the United States if Beijing provides military assistance to Iran during the Middle East war.

TEHRAN EXPECTS CONTACTS TO CONTINUE

TEHRAN

Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Sunday that no one had expected the talks with the US to reach an agreement in one day.

"Naturally, from the beginning, we should not have expected to reach an agreement in a single session. No one had such an expectation," ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei said, according to state broadcaster IRIB. He said Tehran was "confident that contacts between us and Pakistan as well as our other friends in the region will continue".

Putin calls up Tehran, offers to mediate

MOSCOW

Amid failed US-Iran talks in Islamabad, Pakistan, Russian President Vladimir Putin called up his Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian on Sunday and assessed the Iranian-American talks held in Islamabad on April 11. He also offered to mediate and bring stability and peace to the Middle East that is suffering in the conflict, said Kremlin.

"Vladimir Putin emphasised his readiness to further facilitate the search for a political and diplomatic settlement to the conflict, and to mediate efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East," the Kremlin said in its readout of the call.

This come after Us and Iran failed to reach to a conclusion to end the war. After the meet ended US Vice President JD Vance said Washington had "not heard a positive Iranian commitment regarding nuclear weapons".

SUMMARY OF THE DAY

- The US failed to gain trust of the Iranian delegation in Pakistan peace talks, Iran's parliamentary speaker said
- Iran's foreign ministry downplayed the stalling of negotiations on Sunday
- Strait of Hormuz "completely" under Iranian control, deputy parliament speaker said.
- Saudi Arabia says east-west pipeline, energy facilities restored to "operational capacity" after attacks.
- In a call this morning, the UK's PM Keir Starmer and the Sultan of Oman agreed that all sides should avoid "any further escalation" in the US-Israel war on Iran.
- UK among countries sending minesweepers to help with strait of Hormuz, says Trump.

Right time to implement women's quota: PM

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reached out to all parties ahead of Parliament sitting on Thursday to clear a law for early implementation of 33% women's quota seeking their support, saying this is the right time to turn their long-time aspiration of increasing women's representation in politics into reality.

In letters to floor leaders of all parties in Parliament on Friday, he said he was writing to them so that all "come together in one voice" to pass the Constitutional amendment, as it is a "moment to demonstrate" responsibility towards women and future generations.

The Budget session of Parliament is reconvening on Thursday to pass amendments to the Constitution for women's quota after a delimitation.

"It would be great to have many Members of Parliament express their views on this subject in Parliament. This is a moment above any one party or individual...Since all political parties have expressed the desire to increase women's representation in politics for a long time, this is the right time to turn that aspiration into reality," he said.

PEENYA FLYOVER LOAD TEST PUT OFF, TRAFFIC TO FLOW AS USUAL

BENGALURU

The National Highways Authority of India has announced the postponement of the final load testing on the Peenya Elevated Flyover along NH 4, which was earlier scheduled to take place between April 13 and April 17.

The authority had initially planned to conduct the crucial load testing exercise following the completion of cable repair works on the flyover.

The testing was intended to assess the structural integrity and safety of the elevated corridor. As part of this process, temporary restrictions on all types of vehicular movement were proposed from 5 am on April 13 to 11 am on April 17.

However, the plan has now been deferred based on a request from the Bengaluru Traffic Police, citing unavoidable reasons. HenceI, the flyover will remain open for regular vehicular movement.

LET LEADERS DECIDE!

Cabinet reshuffle decision rests with high command: CM

CHIKKAMAGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah clarified that the decision regarding the much-anticipated cabinet reshuffle lies solely with the party high command, while asserting that there is nothing wrong in legislators aspiring for ministerial positions visiting New Delhi.

Speaking to reporters at the NR Pura travellers' bungalow, he said the reshuffle process is still pending and may have been delayed due to the Assembly elections in five states and the recent budget session. "MLAs meeting leaders in Delhi over ministerial aspirations is not inappropriate," he noted.

Highlighting development work, Siddaramaiah said the construction of a long-pending bridge in Narasimharajapura has finally been initiated during his tenure. He alleged that the previous BJP government had failed to take any concrete steps toward the project.

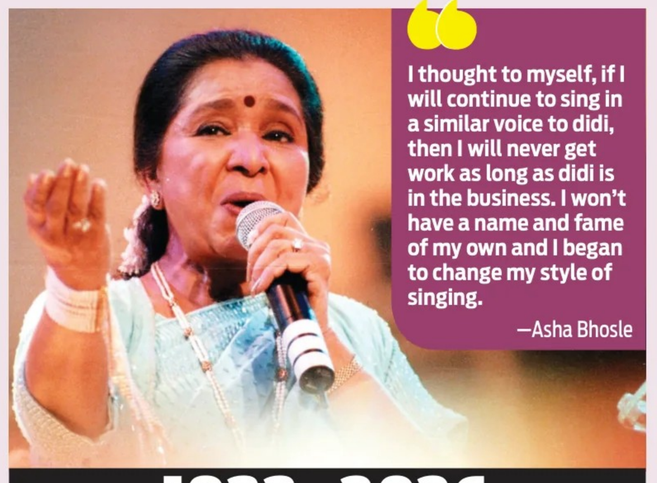
On internal party developments, the Chief Minister dismissed speculation of a wave of resignations within the Congress. He said his political secretary Naseer Ahmed has not resigned so far, though he did not entirely rule out future developments. Siddaramaiah maintained that the Congress remains confident of winning upcoming by-elections despite reports of dissent.

He clarified that party leader Saleem Ahmed had only expressed concern over alleged anti-party activities during the Davanagere South bypoll and had not indicated any impending defeat.

Responding to concerns about forest dwellers not receiving land rights, he said a meeting would soon be held to address the issue. He also rejected claims that Karnataka is unsafe for tourists, calling such statements baseless while assuring a probe into a recent incident involving a Kerala girl.

'ABHI NA JAO CHHOD KAR'

ASHA TAI LEAVES THE STAGE



I thought to myself, if I will continue to sing in a similar voice to didi, then I will never get work as long as didi is in the business. I won't have a name and fame of my own and I began to change my style of singing.

—Asha Bhosle

1933 - 2026

MUMBAI

The voice that entertained generations of music lovers fell silent…! Asha Bhosle, the unrivalled queen of Indian playback singing, died in Mumbai on Sunday, having been admitted to Breach Candy Hospital after suffering a heart attack on Saturday.

Her death marks the end of an era in Bollywood music with a career spanning more than eight decades and encompassing over 12,000 songs.

Bhosle's distinctive voice breathed life into countless film songs as actors lip-synced to her unforgettable tracks. Her pervasive presence in Bollywood earned her the 1997 hit Cornershop tribute 'Brimful of Asha', and she was also known internationally for a collaboration with British musician Boy George. Her range and vitality made every song a celebration and defined the sound of Bollywood for generations.

From Dum Maro Dum and Piya Tu Ab To Aaja to Mehndi Hai Rachnewali, her versatility knew no bounds. Films such as Teesri Manzil, Caravan, Yaadon Ki Baaraat, Ijaazat and Saagar featured some of her most memorable work, while Umrao Jaan, composed by Khayyam, is widely regarded as a career high point.

Bhosle's partnership with composer RD Burman (whom she later married) was one of the most iconic collaborations in Bollywood - together they crafted a soundscape that revolutionized the industry. Her voice perfectly matched Burman's experimental, eclectic tunes, resulting in numerous hits that spanned genres - from soulful melodies to upbeat numbers.

Bhosle and Burman built an extraordinary musical legacy together over 25 years, with Asha once recalling how he brought out the best in her.

"It is only Pancham [as Burman was fondly called] who has uncovered my range as a singer. Till Pancham made me explore the inner recesses of my own voice... I was totally unaware of the fact that I could sing with such suppleness of throat," Bhosle said in an interview in 2023.

Born on September 8, 1933 in Goar of Maharashtra, Bhosle hailed from the renowned Mangeshkar family. Asha was the third child of the couple, younger to melody queen Lata Mangeshkar and Meena Khadikar, and elder to Usha Mangeshkar and Hridayanath Mangeshkar.

Raised in a musically rich home by her actor and classical singer father Deenanath Mangeshkar and supportive mother and Shevanti Mangeshkar, Asha began her musical journey early, singing her first song for the Marathi film Majha Bal in 1943

After their father died when Asha was just nine, she and Lata Mangeshkar had to start working. Asha, made her singing debut with song 'Chala Chala Nav Bala' for a Marathi film 'Majha Bal' in 1943 when she was just 10 years old and got paid Rs 100. Initially struggled to find her footing in the film industry, especially when Lata Mangeshkar was the first choice to playback for heroines.

Her career soared in the 50s and 60s as she became a versatile artist across genres - performing for films, ghazals, bhajans, qawwalis and pop. Collaborations with OP Nayyar, Burman and SD Burman made her a household name.

Hits like Aaiye Meherbaan (1958), Parde Mein Rehne Do (1968) and Dum Maro Dum (1971) are just a few highlights of her vast repertoire. Her duets with legends such as Mohammed Rafi, Kishore Kumar and Manna Dey remain timeless classics.

Bhosle was celebrated for her remarkable ability to adapt her voice to evolving musical styles. Over the years, she collaborated with a range of international pop artists - in the early 1990s, she teamed up with Boy George and recorded a track with REM's Michael Stipe.

Bhosle celebrated her 90th birthday in 2023 with a live concert in Dubai. She never stopped working. In 2020, she launched the online talent show Asha Ki Asha. She also started a YouTube channel, sharing stories from her career and gaining over 160,000 subscribers.

12,000+ songs

20+ LANGUAGES

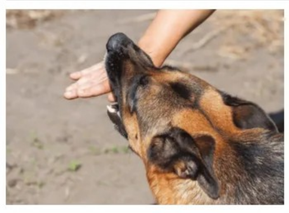
KEY COMPOSER TIES

RD Burman (for whom she sang 840 songs), OP Nayyar, SD Burman, Bappi Lahiri, AR Rahman

The not so sweet love life

Yet life brought its fair share of troubles. Asha Bhosle was just 16 when she eloped with her personal secretary, Ganpatrao Bhosle, and had three children with him. After enduring years of mistreatment from her husband and in-laws, she left her husband in 1960 as a single mother of three children and later teamed up with Burman, whom she married in 1980.

QUICK READ



Man attacks dog with stick,, CCTV captures brutality

CH NEWS, Bengaluru
A shocking incident of animal cruelty has been reported from Avarehalli in north Bengaluru, where a man allegedly attacked a neighbor's pet dog with a stick after it barked at his wife. According to reports, Anjinappa, a resident, owned a dog named Scooby. On the evening of April 11, Scooby barked at a woman passing by, which angered her husband, Gopi. Later that night, Gopi allegedly entered Anjinappa's house and beat the chained dog mercilessly with a stick. Scooby collapsed unconscious due to severe injuries. The attack was captured on CCTV, and Gopi fled the scene as family members rushed out. Scooby was immediately taken to a veterinary hospital and is now out of danger. A police complaint has been filed, and an investigation is underway.

Siddaramaiah mourns demise of legendary singer Asha Bhosle

CH NEWS, Bengaluru
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has expressed deep grief over the demise of legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle, calling it a great loss to Indian cinema. In a heartfelt message, he said her passing has broken a vital link between generations of music. He noted that with over 12,000 songs across decades, Asha Bhosle entertained millions and enriched the industry immensely. Praising her melodious voice and humble personality, the CM said she held a special place in people's hearts. He added that the film industry feels poorer today without the "Swar Samragni." Siddaramaiah also prayed for peace to her soul and strength for her family and fans. Asha Bhosle, a towering figure in Indian music, also sang in Kannada films, earning admiration in Karnataka.

More research needed in homeopathy: Minister Gundu Rao

CH NEWS, Bengaluru
Bengaluru: Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao emphasized the need for increased research and experimentation in the field of homeopathy. Speaking at the World Homeopathy Day event organized by the Karnataka Homeopathic Association at the AV Ravindra Rao Auditorium in IISc, he noted that homeopathy has a 200-year history and is a scientific and simple system of medicine that strengthens the body. He said the state government currently runs around 60–70 dispensaries. Addressing concerns including board election issues, he assured that the government is open to discussions and will soon take steps to resolve them, including plans to establish a homeopathy medical college. He also stressed that building public trust is essential for expanding government initiatives in this field.

HC halts controversial land acquisition deal

Court cancels notification, fines developer, orders federal probe into alleged land misuse case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a significant ruling, the High Court has halted a controversial land acquisition process near Hebbal, delivering a major setback to a real estate developer accused of misusing industrial provisions for private business interests.

The court quashed the acquisition notification involving land valued at hundreds of crores and imposed a fine of ₹10 lakh on developer Dayanand Pai. It also directed a federal investigation into the matter, underscoring the seriousness of the allegations.

The dispute dates back to 2002, when the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board issued a notification to acquire 63.33 acres of land for industrial development, despite objections from local residents. In 2004, the Bangalore Development Authority also notified the same land for the development of the Arkavathi Layout. Subsequently, the industrial board proceeded

under legal provisions to acquire the land, prompting affected landowners to challenge the move in court.

Although the petition was initially dismissed, the case was later revived after detailed arguments by senior legal counsel representing the landowners. The division bench, comprising Justices D.K. Singh and Tara Vitasta Ganju, examined the matter closely and ruled against both the state authorities and the developer's firm, Lake View Tourism Corporation.

The petitioners argued that the land acquisition violated legal norms, as it was carried out not for genuine public or industrial purposes but to benefit a private tourism project. The proposed project reportedly included luxury resorts, five-star hotels, and entertainment facilities under the banner of a tourist center. Lawyers contended that the industrial board's powers should not be used to serve influential individuals or private commercial ventures.

The court accepted these arguments, noting that the corporation in question lacked proper legal standing and that the state had overstepped by supporting a private entity. It emphasized that land acquisition must strictly serve public interest and not be misused under the doctrine of eminent domain.

In its April 10 verdict, the bench annulled the acquisition notification and ordered further scrutiny through a federal probe. Legal experts have hailed the judgment as a strong message against misuse of power, stating that it reinforces public trust in the judiciary and upholds the principle of fairness in land acquisition processes.

KPCC accepts resignation, dissolves minority wing

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a significant political development in Bengaluru, the state unit of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) has accepted the resignation of its minority wing president Abdul Jabbar.

The decision was formally approved by KPCC President and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, marking a key shift in the party's internal structure.

Following the acceptance of the resignation, the entire Minority Wing committee functioning under Abdul Jabbar's leadership has been dissolved with immediate effect. Announcing the move, D. K. Shivakumar stated that the decision was taken to bring renewed energy and direction to the party's minority outreach efforts. The dissolution is seen as part of a broader attempt to reorganize and strengthen the party at various levels.

In an official statement released to the media, Shivakumar confirmed that the existing committee had been disbanded and emphasized that the step was necessary to infuse fresh momentum into the organization. He noted that restructuring initiatives are being undertaken to ensure more effective engagement with minority communities and to align the party's strategies with current political demands.

The KPCC leadership has also indicated that a new team of office-bearers for the Minority Wing will be appointed soon. Instructions have been issued to initiate the process of forming a new committee, with an emphasis on selecting dynamic and capable leaders. The party aims to complete this process in the near future to avoid any organizational vacuum.

Political observers suggest that this move is part of a larger plan by the Indian National Congress high command to revamp its internal structure following recent parliamentary elections. The reorganization is expected to enhance coordination and improve grassroots connectivity.

With the selection process for a new president and team underway, the KPCC is likely to witness further changes aimed at strengthening its position in the state's evolving political landscape.

State launches 'data cleansing' campaign to correct revenue land records

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has launched a large-scale initiative aimed at correcting long-standing errors in revenue land records across the state.

The campaign, titled the "Data Cleansing Campaign," is designed to fully eliminate inaccuracies in property records and strengthen protection of farmers' land rights while improving transparency in the revenue administration system.

The Revenue Department, often described as the backbone of all government welfare and administrative systems, has identified widespread inconsistencies in land documents, particularly in Record of Rights, Tenancy and Crops (RTC) records. Officials noted that several records still contain the names of deceased landowners, outdated ownership details even after land acquisition, and discrepancies in land measurements between official documents and survey maps. These errors have created serious difficulties for farmers for decades, especially during ownership transfers and benefit claims.

Under the new initiative, the government aims to systematically address multiple categories of errors. These include correction of spelling mistakes and incorrect names in land records, rectification of discrepancies in land extent and measurements, updating records to reflect legal heirs in cases of deceased landowners, and ensuring that land acquired for government projects is properly recorded in official databases. The objective is to ensure that all revenue records are accurate, updated, and legally valid.

Strict instructions have been issued to revenue officials, including tahsildars and sub-divisional officers, to carry out the process without negligence or delay. The government has directed that even minor spelling errors in land documents must be corrected immediately. It has also mandated that details of land parcels under court injunctions or legal disputes must be properly recorded to avoid future complications. Officials have been warned to ensure that all updates are completed in a time-bound and transparent manner.

The initiative is expected to bring significant benefits to farmers across Karnataka. With accurate and updated land records, farmers will find it easier to access agricultural loans from banks, as financial institutions rely heavily on clear ownership documentation. In addition, government welfare schemes such as direct benefit transfers and programs like PM-Kisan will reach eligible beneficiaries more efficiently without administrative delays or documentation errors.

Furthermore, farmers will face fewer obstacles in receiving compensation for crop loss or land acquisition, as verified records will streamline the disbursement process. The government has emphasized that all updates will be carried out through the digital "Bhoomi" platform to ensure transparency and reduce manual errors. Farmers have been urged to verify their land records and approach revenue offices promptly if corrections are required.

JS PU College, located in Mallathahalli in Bengaluru, achieved 45 state-level ranks in the II PU examinations conducted in March 2026. Four students secured the top score of 592 out of 600. Students, their parents, college principal, lecturers, staff, chairman Prof Jayarama Shetty, and members of the management celebrated this accomplishment on the college premises on Sunday.

Multiple road accidents leave 1 dead, many hurt

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A series of road accidents across Karnataka on Sunday left one person dead and several injured, raising fresh safety concerns.

In Bengaluru, a 45-year-old man died in a two-wheeler crash near Mysuru Road. In Ballari, a motorcycle-lorry collision seriously injured a couple. Authorities suspect overspeeding and violations; investigations are ongoing.

Peenya flyover closed for load testing

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Traffic movement on National Highway-4 at the Peenya Elevated Flyover will be temporarily restricted from April 13 to April 17 to facilitate crucial safety testing, officials said. Commuters have been advised to plan their travel in advance and use designated alternative routes to avoid inconvenience.

The restriction has been imposed to carry out final load testing on the flyover after the completion of cable repair works. Authorities stated that this testing is essential to evaluate the structural integrity and load-bearing capacity of the elevated corridor before it is fully reopened to the public. The request for traffic restriction was made by the National Highways Authority of India, which is overseeing the maintenance work.

According to officials, the restriction will come into effect from 5:00 AM on April 13, 2026, and will remain in place until 11:00 AM on April 17, 2026. During this period, vehicular movement will be completely prohibited on both sides of the flyover stretch between the Kennametal Vidya upper ramp and the SRS down ramp.

To manage traffic flow, authorities have announced alternative routes for commuters. Vehicles traveling from Nelamangala towards Bengaluru are advised to use the road beneath the flyover along National Highway-4 and the service road, passing through 8th Mile, Dasarahalli, Jalahalli Cross, Peenya Police Station Junction, SRS Junction, and then proceed towards Goraguntepalya.

Similarly, commuters traveling from Bengaluru towards Nelamangala via the CMTI route should use the service road below the flyover, moving through SRS Junction, Peenya Police Station Junction, Jalahalli Cross, Dasarahalli, 8th Mile, and continue via the Parle-G Toll route.

The Bengaluru Traffic Police have urged the public to cooperate with the temporary changes and follow traffic guidelines to ensure road safety and smooth vehicular movement during the testing period.

LAND SCAM

HC orders CBI probe into KIADB land scam involving non-existent firm

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has ordered a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into a serious alleged land scam involving officials of the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) and a private company that was found to have no real business operations. The court observed that the case reflects a prima facie criminal conspiracy between public officials and private individuals in the allocation of valuable land at highly undervalued rates.

The controversy relates to approximately 55 acres of land located in Hebbal and Amanikere Hebbal villages near Bengaluru, which had been acquired by KIADB. The acquired land was later transferred to an entity named Lake View Tourism Corporation. However, the legality and authenticity of this transfer were challenged by landowner Krishna Reddy and his relatives, who alleged large-scale irregularities and misuse of authority in the acquisition and allocation process.

A division bench comprising Justice D.K. Singh and Justice Tara Vithasta Ganj thoroughly examined the case and made strong observations regarding the conduct of the authorities involved. The court noted that the company in question, although reportedly incorporated in 2011, had no evidence of any commercial activity or operational presence even according to official records from 2022–2023. Despite being a non-operational and effectively non-existent entity, it was still allotted prime land, raising serious legal and procedural concerns.

The court further highlighted that farmers and original landowners were allegedly deprived of their valuable property for extremely low compensation, which amounted to a significant injustice. The judges emphasized that such actions not only violate established land acquisition norms but also indicate possible collusion between officials and private beneficiaries.

In its final ruling, the High Court set aside the entire land acquisition and allotment process related to the 55 acres, effectively cancelling all associated transactions. The court also imposed a penalty of 10 lakh rupees on Lake View Tourism Corporation for its involvement in the disputed allocation.

Considering the seriousness of the allegations and the possibility of institutional involvement, the court stated that an impartial investigation could not be expected from state agencies alone. Therefore, it directed the CBI to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the matter to uncover the full extent of the alleged fraud, identify those responsible, and take appropriate legal action.

QUICK READ

Udupi police rescue kidnap victim, arrest 4

Udupi

An inter-state operation by Udupi police led to the rescue of a kidnapped man and the arrest of four suspects in Telangana. The victim, Rajesh, was allegedly abducted from Manipal after being forced into a car. His brother filed a complaint at Manipal Police Station, citing a business dispute as the motive. A special investigation team led by Inspector Mahesh Prasad, including cyber and local police units, tracked the accused to Govindpalli in Jagityal district. The arrested individuals are Ramanath Srinu (30), Mohan Ramavat (22), Paramesh (30), and Paltya Vijay (25). Police said swift technical tracking ensured Rajesh was rescued unharmed. Further investigation is ongoing.

MCC officials inspect Nanthur restaurant after public complaint

Mangaluru

MCC officials from Mangaluru City Corporation conducted an inspection at Chefs hotel in Nanthur following a public complaint regarding hygiene and safety standards. The visit was led by Kadri Zone Commissioner Rekha J. Shetty and included health officers who assessed the premises and interacted with staff during the inspection. It followed a complaint submitted by residents, prompting swift action by civic authorities who aimed to ensure compliance with food safety regulations and maintain public trust in hospitality services across the city. Officials said further monitoring and necessary enforcement actions will continue if any violations are identified during follow-up inspections in the area to ensure strict compliance and accountability standards maintained.

Thiruvananthapuram–Mangaluru express delayed by 4 hours

Mangaluru

The Southern Railway has announced a rescheduling of Train No. 06042 Thiruvananthapuram North–Mangaluru Express Special due to operational delays. The train, which was originally scheduled to depart from Thiruvananthapuram North station at 8:30 hrs on Sunday, left at 12:30 hrs, resulting in a delay of four hours. Officials said the delay occurred because its pairing train arrived late, leading to a cascading impact on scheduled operations. Railway authorities are working to manage the disruption while ensuring passenger safety and minimizing further delays across the network. Passengers have been advised to check real-time updates through official Southern Railway communication channels and the National Train Enquiry System (NTES) app. Authorities stated that such adjustments are sometimes necessary in interconnected railway operations.

Sri Subramanya Temple re-consecrated with grand rituals

The re-consecration and Brahmakalashotsava of Sri Subramanya Temple in Benguru village was held with devotion and traditional rituals.

MADIKERI

The re-consecration and Brahmakalashotsava of the Sri Subramanya Temple in Benguru village near Cherambane was held with deep devotion and festive fervor, drawing hundreds of devotees.

The sacred rituals were conducted at the newly reconstructed temple premises, where the Panchaloha idol of Lord Subramanya was reinstalled. The ceremonies, including Prana Pratishtha, Jeeva Kalasha Abhisheka, Homa Kalasha Abhisheka, Tattva Kalasha Abhisheka, Brahma Kalasha Abhisheka, and Maha Pooja, were performed under the guidance of temple priest Brahmasri Neeleshwara Uchchilatthaya Padmanabha Thantri.

The event was organized under the leadership of the Pattamada family. Devotees from the surrounding regions participated in large numbers, witnessing the sacred rituals and receiving blessed prasada and ritual offerings.

Several dignitaries attended the occasion, including MLC M.P. Suja Kushalappa, former MLA M.P. Appachu Ranjan, trustee of Sri Kundurumotte Temple T.P. Ramesh, Manju Medappa, trustee of Sri Vijayavinayaka Temple Madikeri G. Chidvilas, MUDA Chairman Rajesh B.Y., temple trustee Pattamada Diksha Kallappa, and renovation committee secretary Pattamada Bopanna.

Temple committee president Pattamada Ponnappa informed that the renovation of the ancient temple was undertaken at a cost of ₹55 lakh, supported by donations from benefactors. He said that historical artifacts and old idols worshipped in earlier times were discovered in the sanctum during the renovation process.

He added that through the reconstruction and Brahmakalashotsava, the ancient Sri Subramanya Temple has been successfully revived and re-established as a place of worship for the village community, restoring its spiritual and cultural significance.

Students should engage in co-curricular activities: Veerabhadrappa

TARIKERE

Students should actively participate in co-curricular activities along with academics to build their future, said Jnanpith Award-winning writer Kum. Veerabhadrappa. He was speaking after inaugurating the valedictory programme at Government First Grade College, Tarikere, which featured cultural, sports, service schemes, Rangers and Rovers, Youth Red Cross, Women Empowerment Cell, Eco Club, and PM-USHA units.

Veerabhadrappa said that although distractions are natural among youth, students must remain focused and determined to achieve their goals. He encouraged them to excel in at least one field and contribute to the nation's pride. Referring to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, he highlighted his efforts in studying various constitutions before drafting India's Constitution to ensure equality.

MLA G.H. Srinivas stressed government support for education. Principal Dr. T. Manjunath said ₹5 crore under PM-USHA enhanced facilities. Faculty and staff were present.

A state-level children's acting camp in Moodbidri highlights creativity, confidence-building, and the importance of learning beyond classrooms.

Creative camps build confidence in children, Says Alva

MOODBIDRI

A state-level acting-oriented children's camp was inaugurated at Kannada Bhavan under the aegis of Alva's Education Foundation and its theatre research wing, marking yet another initiative aimed at nurturing young talent beyond academics.

Inaugurating the camp, foundation president Dr. M. Mohan Alva highlighted the importance of liveliness, discipline, and effective time management in shaping a balanced and meaningful life. He noted that such creative platforms, conducted under the direction of Dr. Jeevan Ram Sulya, play a vital role in the holistic development of children by encouraging expression and confidence.

Reflecting on his childhood, Dr. Alva shared that he had limited exposure to extracurricular activities, as his parents largely emphasized academics. Starting hostel life at a young age helped him grow independently, while later participation in cultural activities opened doors to international travel, including visits to the Philippines, Japan, and England. He observed that today's parents are far more supportive in nurturing their children's talents.

He emphasized that learning beyond the classroom is equally essential. Even at 75, he considers himself a lifelong learner. With the gradual decline of joint family systems, he added, such camps help children understand values, teamwork, and social interaction.

The camp provides opportunities for children to develop skills in acting, singing, dance, and communication, boosting both confidence and creativity. C.A. Umesh Rao Mijar said academic excellence alone is insufficient without co-curricular participation. Trustee Vivek Alva was also present.

MLA felicitates twin sisters for outstanding PU results

MANGALURU

Dr. Bharath Shetty Y, BJP MLA from Mangaluru City North, visited the residence of twin sisters Vaibhavi S. Karkera and Vaishnavi S. Karkera in Suratkal Hosabettu to personally congratulate them on their exceptional performance in the recent PUC examinations.

Vaibhavi S. Karkera secured the 2nd rank in the state with 598 marks, while her twin sister Vaishnavi S. Karkera achieved the 10th rank with 590 marks. The remarkable achievement of the sisters has brought pride to their family and earned appreciation from the local community.

The twins are daughters of Suresh Karkera and Shakuntala, and their success has been widely celebrated in their neighbourhood. Residents noted that the sisters have consistently excelled in academics through discipline, dedication, and focused preparation.

During his visit, Dr. Shetty personally felicitated the students and conveyed his best wishes for their future academic pursuits. He appreciated their hard work and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence in higher education and competitive careers. He also highlighted the importance of academic achievements in shaping responsible and successful citizens.

The felicitation event was attended by several local leaders and party workers, including Gangadhar Gurikar from Hosabettu; Sharath L. Karkera, President of Veera Maruti Vyayama Shale, Hosabettu; Dinakar Idya, President of Maha Shakti Kendra; Sunil Kulayi; Pushparaj Mukk, Mandal Secretary; former MCC members Shobha Rajesh, Shweta Poojary, and Nayan Kotyan; Ward President Rajesh Mukka; Secretary Ananth Raj; and other community representatives.

The gathering reflected strong community appreciation for academic excellence in the Mangaluru North constituency, with leaders emphasizing the need to recognize and encourage meritorious students to inspire others in the region.

ROAD EXPANSION BEGINS

Long-Pending Bijai Road project finally launched

MANGALURU

A key infrastructure project in the Bijai area of Mangaluru was launched on Sunday, with MLA Vedavyas Kamath inaugurating road development works aimed at improving connectivity in the locality.

The ₹50 lakh project will upgrade the stretch connecting Kottara Cross to AJ Hospital via the KSRTC Quarters within Ward 31 of the Mangaluru City Corporation. The road, long used by the public, had remained underdeveloped for decades due to administrative and ownership constraints, as the land belongs to the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation.

Speaking at the inauguration, Kamath said the long-pending demand was finally being addressed after sustained efforts and repeated representations from local residents and BJP workers. He noted that the project had been made possible due to coordination between civic authorities and KSRTC officials, including Rajesh Shetty, whose cooperation helped resolve procedural hurdles.

The MLA described the initiative as the fulfilment of a nearly 70-year-old demand and expressed confidence that the upgraded road would significantly ease traffic movement and improve daily commuting for residents, hospital visitors, and office-goers in the busy corridor.

He also highlighted that the project was sanctioned during the tenure of the previous BJP government, reflecting continuity in developmental planning for the region.

The event witnessed the presence of BJP leaders, party workers, local residents, and officials from various departments, including the Forest Department, MESCOM, KSRTC, and the Mangaluru City Corporation. Participants welcomed the project, stating it would greatly enhance accessibility and urban infrastructure in the rapidly growing Bijai area.

Srinivas University advances allied health education initiatives

MANGALURU

Srinivas University Chancellor Dr. A. Srinivas Rao participated in Mangalore Physiocon 2026, meeting key leaders to strengthen allied health sciences education and skill development initiatives.

Dr. A. Srinivas Rao, Chancellor of Srinivas University, participated in Mangalore Physiocon 2026, an international physiotherapy conference held in the city.

During the event, he engaged in discussions with key leaders in medical education and allied health sciences, highlighting the university's commitment to advancing healthcare education and skill development.

Dr. Rao met Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil, Karnataka's Minister for Medical Education, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, at the conference venue. The interaction focused on strengthening academic frameworks and promoting skill-based learning in healthcare sectors.

He also held a separate meeting with Dr. Yagna Unmesh Shukla, Chairperson of the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Their discussion centered on the future growth and standardization of allied health sciences education across the country.

At the conference, Dr. Shukla emphasized the mandatory implementation of NCAHP-prescribed curricula for 17 allied health courses, including Occupational Therapy, Respiratory Technology, Medical Physics, and Nuclear Medicine Technology, beginning from the 2026–27 academic year. The initiative aims to bring uniformity and elevate professional standards nationwide.

The two-day conference, organized by the South Canara Physiotherapy Teachers' Association at the TMA Pai International Convention Centre, brought together clinicians, academicians, researchers, and policymakers to deliberate on innovations in physiotherapy and allied health sciences.

These engagements underline Srinivas University's proactive approach in fostering collaborations with state and national stakeholders to enhance quality education and healthcare training.

Karnataka school introduces first AI teacher system

KUNDAPUR

The Government Model Higher Primary School in Vandse, under the Byndoor educational block, has made history by becoming the first government school in Karnataka to introduce an Artificial Intelligence (AI) robot teacher named 'Iris'.

This milestone has been achieved through a public-private partnership, marking a major step toward integrating advanced technology into rural education. The initiative is expected to enhance interactive learning and bridge the gap between traditional teaching methods and modern digital tools.

Developed in collaboration with Maker Labs Edutech Private Limited, the AI robot 'Iris' was earlier introduced in a school in Kerala. Designed as an interactive teaching assistant, the robot is dressed in a traditional saree and is capable of communicating in over 20 languages. It can answer academic questions from LKG to Class 10 level and also perform simple gestures such as shaking hands with students, making learning more engaging.

The robot is built under the Atal Tinkering Lab scheme of NITI Aayog and includes features such as voice assistance, mobility, and interactive learning modules. School staff are currently being trained to integrate the system into daily classroom teaching.

Education experts believe such innovations will help students develop curiosity in science and technology while supporting teachers in delivering lessons more effectively.

The school, which has a 111-year legacy, currently serves 334 students from 12 nearby villages and offers English-medium education along with free facilities including transport, books, uniforms, and extracurricular training.

QUICK READ

Farmers' Protest Intensifies Over Land Acquisition

Doddaballapura
Farmers in Doddaballapura have launched an indefinite protest against the proposed acquisition of over 2,100 acres of fertile agricultural land, with support from labor organizations raising the intensity of the agitation. The protest is being held in front of the old Nadakacheri in Doddaballapura, where local farmers have gathered to oppose the planned acquisition of agricultural land in and around Doddabelavangal in the taluk. The farmers allege that the move will severely impact their livelihoods, as the land in question is fertile and has been a primary source of income for many families in the region. District General Secretary of Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), P.A. Venkatesh, has expressed strong support for the farmers and stated that members of the organization will actively participate in the ongoing protest.

Allegations of Misinformation Over Arkavati River Devpt

Ramanagara
Development works undertaken in Ramanagara have sparked controversy, with allegations emerging that misinformation is being spread regarding the Arkavati riverbank project. According to statements made during a recent press conference, MLA Iqbal Hussain has initiated several development projects in Ramanagara, an area said to have remained underdeveloped for many years. Supporters of the MLA claim that these efforts are aimed at improving infrastructure and public amenities, particularly along the Arkavati riverbank. However, Raid Nagaraju, district president of the Backward Classes Union, has alleged that certain individuals are deliberately spreading false information to create confusion and opposition against the project.

Leopard Attack Leaves Woman Seriously Injured

Ramanagara
A woman was seriously injured after being attacked by a leopard in Ramanagara district, triggering panic among villagers and renewed concerns over wildlife movement in human settlements. The incident took place in Kavanapur village of Kailancha hobli, where the victim, Kempamma, was reportedly grazing sheep near her home. According to local sources, she noticed a leopard attacking her sheep and immediately rushed to protect the animals. In the process, the wild animal turned on her and launched a sudden attack.

Highway Altercation Sparks Police Case

A dispute over a car tire escalated into a violent altercation on a busy highway near Nelamangala, prompting swift action from law enforcement authorities. The incident has raised fresh concerns about road rage and commuter safety in the region.

NEELAMANGALA

According to preliminary reports, the incident took place on a busy highway stretch near Nelamangala when a disagreement related to a car tire quickly spiraled out of control. Sources indicate that the issue began when one of the vehicles reportedly faced a tire-related problem, leading to an argument between the individuals involved. What initially appeared to be a minor roadside disagreement soon escalated into a heated verbal exchange.Eyewitnesses stated that the argument intensified within minutes, eventually turning into a physical altercation. The situation created panic among commuters, as the confrontation unfolded in the middle of an active roadway. Traffic movement was temporarily disrupted, with several vehicles forced to slow down or stop as the incident blocked part of the highway.Bystanders attempted to intervene and de-escalate the situation, but the aggression displayed by those involved made it difficult to bring the matter under control. Some witnesses described the scene as chaotic, with shouting and physical aggression drawing attention from passersby and nearby motorists.Police personnel from the Peenya Police Station responded promptly after receiving information about the disturbance. Officers quickly reached the spot, dispersed the crowd, and restored order on the highway. Traffic flow was gradually normalized after police intervention.Authorities have confirmed that a case has been registered at the Peenya Police Station against those involved in the altercation. An investigation is currently underway to determine the exact cause of the dispute and to identify all individuals connected to the incident.

Alleged Assault by Town Panchayat Staff Raises Concerns

DODDABALLAPURA

According to initial reports, the incident occurred in Maruthinagar locality of Doddaballapura, where certain members of the town panchayat staff were allegedly involved in an assault. The situation reportedly began during a routine civic-related interaction, which soon escalated into a confrontation between the staff and local residents.

Witnesses stated that tensions rose quickly, leading to a heated argument. The disagreement is believed to have been linked to a civic issue, possibly related to sanitation, encroachment, or local administration. However, what began as a verbal exchange soon turned physical, with allegations that the staff members resorted to assault.

The incident created panic in the area, drawing the attention of nearby residents who gathered at the scene. Some locals attempted to intervene and calm the situation, while others recorded the incident on their mobile phones. The visuals reportedly circulated widely, intensifying public outrage and demands for accountability.

Following the incident, local authorities were informed, and police officials reached the spot to assess the situation. Efforts were made to restore calm and prevent further escalation. Those involved in the altercation were identified, and statements from both parties are being collected as part of the inquiry.Residents of Maruthinagar have expressed concern over the behavior of civic staff,

An incident of alleged assault involving town panchayat staff in Doddaballapura has come to light from the Maruthinagar area, sparking concern among residents and prompting calls for strict action against those responsible.

stating that such actions undermine public trust in local administration. They have demanded a transparent investigation and strict action if the allegations are proven true.

Police officials have confirmed that a case is being examined, and necessary legal steps will be taken based on the findings of the investigation. Authorities have also urged both civic staff and citizens to maintain restraint and resolve disputes through lawful means.

The incident highlights the need for better communication and conflict resolution mechanisms between civic authorities and the public. Ensuring accountability and professionalism in public service remains crucial to maintaining trust and order in growing urban areas like Doddaballapura.

The Nageshwara Swamy Rathotsava and Yallamma Devi Jagada Palakki Utsav were celebrated with enthusiasm

Chariot Festival Celebrated with Devotion and Grandeur in Taluk

ANEKAL

The religious festivities began in afternoon around 12:30 pm, when the idol of Nagalingeshwara Swamy was ceremoniously brought out amid traditional rituals and prayers. Devotees gathered in large numbers to witness the sacred proceedings, which were conducted with deep reverence and adherence to age-old customs. The idol was later placed on a beautifully decorated chariot, marking the beginning of the Rathotsava.

The event was inaugurated by prominent religious leaders, including Dr. Sivananda Shivacharya Swamiji of Gummalapur Sansthan Math and Dr. Rajeshwara Shivacharya Swamiji of Rajapur Sansthan Math. The swamijis offered special prayers to the decorated chariot, invoking blessings for peace, prosperity, and well-being of the community. Their presence added spiritual significance to the occasion and attracted devotees from nearby areas.

As the chariot procession commenced, it moved through the main streets of the village, accompanied by devotional chants and traditional music. The streets were lined with devotees eager to catch a glimpse of the deity and seek blessings. Many participants expressed their faith by offering bananas and other symbolic items to the deity, praying for the fulfillment of their wishes.

The Yallamma Devi Jagada Palakki Utsav was also held alongside the Rathotsava, further enriching the cultural and spiritual vibrancy of the celebrations. The combined festivities reflected the strong traditions and communal harmony prevalent in the region.

Festival of Karunamayi Kalikadevi Temple Next Week

BHAKTARAHALLI

The fourth annual grand festival of the Karunamayi Kalikadevi Temple in Hoskote taluk is set to be held from April 21 to 26 at Bhaktarahalli village, attracting devotees from surrounding regions.

The much-awaited religious celebration will take place at Bhaktarahalli under Doddagattiganabbe Gram Panchayat, where preparations are already underway to host the six-day event with devotion and grandeur.

The festival is expected to draw a large number of devotees, reflecting the deep-rooted cultural and spiritual traditions of the region.

According to organizers, the festival will begin with the Karaga Mahotsava on the first day, a significant ritual associated with the Kshatriya community. The event will also feature a grand procession through the main streets of the village, allowing devotees to participate and seek blessings from the deity.

On the second day, a unique ritual involving the arrival of 108 deities into the village will be conducted. Special puja programs will be organized as part of the celebrations, creating a spiritually vibrant atmosphere.

Case Registered Against Liquor Shop at Bengaluru Airport for Rule Violation

DEVANAHALLI

A case has been registered at the airport police station in Devanahalli over allegations of selling liquor beyond permitted hours at a shop located inside Terminal 2 of Kempegowda International Airport.

According to official sources, the case came to light on April 7 during a routine night patrol conducted by police personnel at the airport. While gathering information about activities at the airport, officers reportedly noticed that the 'Living Liquids' MRP liquor outlet in Terminal 2 was open and actively selling liquor at around 11:45 pm, which was beyond the legally permitted operating hours.

Authorities immediately informed the staff at the liquor store that keeping the outlet open past the allowed time was a violation of existing rules and regulations. The staff were instructed to shut down operations immediately to comply with licensing conditions.

However, as per the complaint filed by the police, the store personnel allegedly ignored the instructions and continued their business operations despite being warned.

Following this, the airport police registered a formal case against the concerned liquor shop for violating licensing norms and operating beyond the permitted hours. The incident has raised questions about compliance with rules within high-security and regulated zones like international airports.

Officials stated that an investigation is currently underway to determine the extent of the violation and to fix responsibility. Further action will be taken based on the findings, and authorities.

Pre-Monsoon Rains Bring Relief but Cause Damage in Sasalu Hobli

DODDABALLAPURA

Pre-monsoon rains lashed parts of Sasalu hobli in Doddaballapura taluk, offering temporary relief from intense heat while also causing damage to crops and property in several areas.

After days of scorching temperatures, residents of Sasalu hobli experienced much-needed rainfall. While the showers brought down the heat slightly, the relief was short-lived as the overall weather conditions remained hot and humid. Locals expressed mixed reactions, welcoming the rain but raising concerns over the damage caused by strong winds and lightning.

According to reports, the sudden spell of rain was accompanied by gusty winds and lightning, which adversely affected agricultural activities in the region. In several places, irrigated millet crops suffered damage due to the force of the winds and heavy rainfall. Farmers have expressed concern over potential losses, especially as the pre-monsoon period is crucial for crop stability and growth.

In addition to crop damage, power supply was disrupted in many villages across the hobli. The strong winds reportedly damaged electrical infrastructure, leaving several areas without electricity for hours. Residents faced inconvenience due to the outages, particularly during the late evening and night.

A significant incident was reported from Sonnenahalli village under Hosahalli Gram Panchayat, where a lightning strike caused damage to a residential structure.

Students Protest Poor Facilities at Government Boys' Hostel

CHINTAMANI

Students residing at a Government Boys' Hostel in Chintamani have raised serious concerns over the lack of basic facilities, alleging that poor living conditions are affecting both their health and education.According to complaints from the students, the Government Scheduled Tribes Post Matric Boys' Hostel located near Gajanan Circle in Chintamani Nagar is facing severe issues related to infrastructure and maintenance. The hostel, situated near a prominent landmark close to a bank, is reportedly functioning without adequate provision of essential amenities such as clean drinking water, proper food, and hygienic living conditions.Students have alleged that the food served at the hostel is of extremely poor quality and not fit for regular consumption. In addition to this, there is reportedly no access to safe and clean drinking water, forcing students to manage with inadequate alternatives. The condition of the toilets has also been described as highly unsanitary and dilapidated, posing serious health risks to the residents.The lack of maintenance has further aggravated the situation, with students expressing fears about the possible outbreak of diseases due to unhygienic surroundings. Many residents claim that these issues have already begun to affect their health, leading to growing anxiety among students and their families.We have come here to study, but due to the lack of basic facilities, our studies are getting affected, students said while expressing their frustration. They have urged the government and concerned department officials to visit the hostel immediately, assess the situation, and take urgent corrective measures.

NELAMANGALA STABBING CASE

Bar Supplier Stabbed After Minor Dispute

NELAMANGALA

In a shocking incident, a 23-year-old bar supplier was stabbed by an unidentified man at a bar and restaurant in Nelamangala taluk, following a seemingly trivial argument.

According to police sources, the incident occurred at Saptagiri Bar and Restaurant in the Dabaspet area of Nelamangala. The victim, identified as Sanju Lamani (23), was working as a bar supplier when the attack took place. Preliminary reports suggest

that the violence stemmed from a minor disagreement over a matchbox, which rapidly escalated into a serious altercation.

Eyewitnesses at the scene reported that the argument began as a verbal exchange between Sanju Lamani and an unidentified individual. The situation quickly intensified, with both parties engaging in a heated confrontation. Within moments, the accused allegedly pulled out a sharp weapon and attacked Lamani, stabbing him and causing severe injuries.

The sudden act of violence created panic among customers and staff present at the establishment, with several people rushing to safety while others attempted to assist the injured victim.

Immediately after the incident, Sanju Lamani, a resident of Kundgol in Dharwad district, was rushed to Siddaganga Hospital in Tumakuru for emergency medical treatment. Hospital sources have indicated that he sustained serious injuries and is currently under close medical supervision. His condition is said to be stable but critical, and doctors are continuing treatment.

The Dabaspet Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the incident.

QUICK READ

Teacher Arrested by Talaku Police in Minor Abuse Case

Chitradurga

In a significant development, police have arrested a teacher accused of sexually exploiting a minor girl in Chitradurga district, officials confirmed. The arrest was carried out by the Talaku Police in connection with a serious case reported earlier from Challakere. According to police sources, the accused teacher had allegedly been involved in sexually exploiting a minor girl and attempting to conceal the crime through illegal means. Investigators revealed that the accused had reportedly created fake documents claiming that he was married to the minor girl. Authorities suspect that these forged records were used to mislead officials and avoid legal consequences.

Anganwadi Centre Inaugurated in Kalenahalli Village

Tumakuru

A newly constructed anganwadi centre was inaugurated in Kalenahalli village of Tumakuru district, marking a significant step toward strengthening child welfare and rural development. The inauguration ceremony took place in Kalenahalli village under Urdigere hobli in the Tumakuru Rural Assembly constituency. The anganwadi centre, built in memory of the parents of Jayaprakash, was formally inaugurated by MLA B. Jayaprakash. The initiative is expected to benefit local children and women by providing essential services such as nutrition, early education, and healthcare support. Former Secretary of the Water Resources Department and Deputy Chief Minister D. Jayalalithaa visited the village on the occasion, along with technical advisor K.J., highlighting the importance of such welfare initiatives in rural areas. The event also saw participation from several senior officials and dignitaries.

Allegations of Illegal Granite Mining Surface

Kolar

Reports indicate that unauthorized granite mining activities are allegedly taking place in the hilly regions of Tekal hobli in Malur taluk. According to local sources, large stones are being extracted and transported in trucks during nighttime, suggesting attempts to evade monitoring by authorities. Residents have also alleged that stones are being dumped in designated mining areas under the pretext of legal stone-cutting operations. This has led to suspicions that illegal activities are being carried out under the guise of permitted work.

Students of New National PU College Secure Top Ranks

Students of New National Pre-University College have achieved remarkable success in the recent state exam results, securing top ranks

KENGERI

In an impressive academic achievement, two students from New National Pre-University College, located in Kengeri under the Yeshwanthpur Assembly constituency, have secured top ranks at the state level. Kaushik C.B. scored an outstanding 99.3 percent (596 marks), securing the 4th rank, while Dhanush Gowda scored 98.5 percent (591 marks), achieving the 9th rank in the state.Kaushik C.B. demonstrated exceptional academic excellence by scoring a perfect 100 out of 100 in Accountancy, Computer Science, and Economics. His subject-wise marks include 98 in Kannada, 99 in English, 100 in Economics, 99 in Business Studies, 100 in Accountancy, and 100 in Computer Science. His consistent performance across subjects highlights his dedication and strong academic foundation.Similarly, Dhanush Gowda also delivered an outstanding performance, scoring full marks in Accountancy and Computer Science. His subject-wise marks include 99 in Kannada, 95 in English, 99 in Economics, 98 in Business Studies, 100 in Accountancy, and 100 in Computer Science. His achievement reflects hard work and determination.The college has recorded excellent results this year, continuing its tradition of academic success. Faculty members attributed this accomplishment

to the combined efforts of students, teachers, and the support of parents. The institution's focus on quality education, disciplined learning environment, and consistent guidance has played a significant role in achieving such high results.College Chairman Roopa Mahesh congratulated the students for bringing pride to the institution and appreciated their dedication. The management also acknowledged the efforts of the principal, vice principal, and teaching staff for their commitment to academic excellence.The achievement of these students has brought pride not only to the college but also to the local community, setting an example for future aspirants and reinforcing the importance of perseverance and quality education.

Brisk Voting in Bidadi Farmers' Coop Society Polls

Voting was conducted with notable enthusiasm in the farmers' service cooperative society elections in Bidadi, located in Ramanagara district, as a large number of members turned out to exercise their franchise.

RAMANAGARA

The election for the Bidadi Raitha Seva Sahakara Sangha saw an impressive voter turnout, reflecting the importance of the cooperative institution among the local farming community. Polling began early in the morning and continued steadily throughout the day, with voters arriving at designated polling booths in significant numbers.

Farmers, members, and stakeholders patiently stood in queues to cast their votes, demonstrating their active participation in the democratic functioning of the cooperative society. The election process was conducted under strict supervision, with officials ensuring that all guidelines and procedures were followed to maintain transparency and fairness.

Authorities had made elaborate arrangements for the smooth conduct of the election. Security personnel were deployed at polling stations to prevent any untoward incidents, while polling staff ensured that the process remained orderly and efficient. Basic facilities were also provided to voters to ensure convenience during the polling hours.The cooperative society plays a vital role in supporting the agricultural community in Bidadi by providing financial assistance, access to seeds and fertilizers, and other essential services. As a result, the election attracted widespread interest, with candidates actively campaigning and presenting their plans to improve the functioning of the society.

The contest was reportedly intense, with multiple candidates competing for various positions within the cooperative. The outcome is expected to have a significant impact on the administration and future initiatives of the society, particularly in addressing the needs and concerns of farmers.

Despite the competitive nature of the election, the polling process remained peaceful, with no major disruptions reported. Officials expressed satisfaction with the overall conduct of the election and the level of participation witnessed.The counting of votes is expected to take place soon, and the results will determine the new leadership of the cooperative. The high voter turnout highlights the growing awareness among farmers about the importance of cooperative governance and their willingness to actively engage in decision-making processes that directly affect their livelihoods.

Teacher accused of creating fake documents, conducting an illegal abortion for a minor girl, and falsely claiming marriage

Teacher Accused of Forgery and Illegal Abortion of Minor

TUMAKURU

According to preliminary reports, the accused teacher allegedly forged official documents to show that he was married to a minor girl. Authorities suspect that the fabricated records were created to avoid legal consequences and mislead officials regarding the nature of the relationship.

The case took a serious turn when it was revealed that the minor girl had been subjected to an abortion, which is believed to have been carried out illegally. Investigators are currently examining whether proper medical procedures were followed and identifying those involved in facilitating the abortion. The incident has raised grave concerns about the safety and protection of

minors.

Police officials have registered a case and launched a detailed investigation into the matter. The accused has reportedly been taken into custody, and authorities are questioning him to uncover the full extent of the crime. Efforts are also underway to verify the authenticity of the documents and identify any accomplices who may have assisted in the forgery or medical procedures.Child protection authorities have been alerted, and steps are being taken to ensure the safety and well-being of the minor girl. Officials are also looking into possible violations under laws related to child protection, sexual offenses, and illegal medical practices.The incident has sparked outrage among local residents, who have demanded strict action against. Social activists have called for stronger enforcement of laws to prevent such incidents and to ensure that minors are safeguarded from exploitation.Authorities have assured that stringent legal action will be taken against all those found guilty. The case highlights the need for vigilance, accountability, and stronger systems to protect vulnerable individuals from abuse and illegal activities.

Melodious Musical Evening Highlights Literary Festival

VIJAYAPURA

A unique blend of literature and music created a memorable evening at a grand book fair in Vijayapura, where progressive organizations hosted a vibrant literary festival celebrating human values and cultural harmony.

The second day of the ongoing literary festival witnessed an inspiring confluence of words and music, transforming the venue into a space of reflection and artistic expression.

The event, organized as part of a large-scale book fair led by progressive groups, attracted literature enthusiasts, thinkers, and music lovers alike.

The atmosphere was enriched by references to the teachings and ideals of Gautama Buddha, Basavanna, and B. R. Ambedkar.

Residents Threaten Family Protest Over Alleged Injustice in Gubbi Road Devpt

TUMAKURU

Residents have raised serious concerns over alleged injustice in road development works in Gubbi, warning of a family-led protest if their grievances are not addressed.Tension is brewing in parts of Gubbi as local residents have voiced strong opposition to ongoing road development works, alleging that the project has led to unfair treatment and unresolved issues. According to residents, the development work, which was expected to improve connectivity and infrastructure, has instead created problems affecting their daily lives.Locals claim that certain aspects of the project have been carried out without proper consultation, leading to inconvenience and potential damage to private properties. Some residents allege that their concerns have been repeatedly ignored by authorities, despite multiple attempts to bring the issues to their attention.The affected families have warned that if justice is not delivered promptly, they are prepared to stage a protest along with their family members. They emphasized that their intention is not to oppose development but to seek fair treatment and proper resolution of their grievances.Residents have also demanded transparency in the execution of the project, urging officials to clearly explain the plans and address the concerns of those impacted. They have called for immediate intervention by higher authorities to prevent the situation from escalating further.Local officials are yet to issue a detailed response regarding the allegations. However, sources indicate that discussions may be held to resolve the matter amicably and ensure that development works continue without causing undue hardship to residents.

Top Scoring Students Honored at PU College

TUMAKURU

Students who secured high marks in the recent examinations were felicitated at a PU college in Gudibande, with officials and faculty praising their achievements as a matter of pride for the institution.

A special felicitation ceremony was organized at the college to honor students who performed exceptionally well in the Pre-University examinations.

The event witnessed the presence of college management, teaching staff, parents, and well-wishers, all gathered to celebrate the academic success of the students.

During the program, meritorious students were recognized and honored for securing top scores across various subjects. Speakers at the event highlighted that the students' achievements reflect not only their hard work and dedication but also the quality of education imparted by the institution.

Faculty members expressed their happiness over the results, stating that consistent efforts by both teachers and students have led to this commendable outcome.

They also appreciated the support of parents, whose encouragement and guidance played a crucial role in the students' success.

ETHICAL CONCERNS.

Officials Inspect Hospital Over Abortion Case

CHITRADURGA

A team of officials visited a private hospital in Challakere following allegations that an abortion was carried out on a minor girl, raising serious legal and ethical concerns.In connection with a recently reported case involving a minor girl, authorities conducted an inspection at a private hospital in Challakere where the abortion is suspected to have taken place. The visit was part of an ongoing investigation to verify whether the medical procedure was conducted in compliance with legal norms and medical guidelines. Officials from the health department, along with other concerned authorities, examined hospital records, patient documentation, and operational procedures during their visit. The inspection aimed to determine whether due process was followed, particularly given the sensitive nature of the case involving a minor.Sources indicate that the authorities are closely scrutinizing whether the hospital had obtained the necessary permissions and adhered to laws related to medical termination of pregnancy, especially in cases involving minors. The role of medical staff and any possible violations are also under investigation.The case has drawn significant attention due to its seriousness, with allegations.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, POORNIMA NAYAK alias POORNIMA NEKKARKAD KAMATH W/o DEEPAK NEKKARKAD KAMATH, R/o Sudeesh, 11-204/26, Mahakaali Road, Near Kalangana, Shaktinagar, Dakshina Kannada, Mangalore, Karnataka-575016, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as POORNIMA KAMATH.

NAME CHANGE

I, **MOHAMMED RAASHID ASLAMI S/O MOHAMMED ASLAM,** R/o- No 430 30 Th A Cross 26th Main Tilak Nagar Bangalore, Karnataka- 560041, have changed the name of my minor daughter LAIBAH ASLAMI aged 3 years 10 months and she shall hereafter be known as **YUSRA FATHIMA ASLAMI**.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as **FARHANA W/O AMANULLA**, R/o- No 319 2nd Main 5th Cross Darga Mohalla Vijinapura Bangalore, Karnataka-560016, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **FARAHANNA**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHAN KUMAR L S/o LAKSHMANAGOWDA A N R/o No 87, Near Mariyamma Temple, Anugondahalli, Medimallasandra, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka-560067, have changed the name of my minor daughter MANWITHA .M aged 3 years and she shall hereafter be known as MISHITHA M.

IN THE COURT OF THE IIIrd ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE AT GOBICHETTIPALAYAM
I.A.No. 3 / 2026
MCOP.No. 66 / 2025

Minor Dharneesh aged about 17 years represented by his Guardian Father R. Selvan aged about 47 years residing at Door No. 127, Arakankottai Village, Elur Medu, Indhira Nagar, Gobichettipalayam Taluk, Erode District.
— Petitioner
-vs-
S. ShekRiyas aged about 45 years S/o. Shek Immamyas residing at, Door No. 257/1, Krishanappa building, Kongoor Road, Electronic City, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District - 560100, Karnataka State.
— 1st Respondent

NOTICE TO 1st RESPONDENT
The minor petitioner has filed an Accident Claim Petition against you and another respondent through his guardian father before the above-mentioned Court in respect of the accident that occurred on 05.01.2025.
The case is posted on 03.06.2026 for your appearance. You are hereby informed to appear before the said Court either in person or through your advocate at 10.30 A.M. on the said date. Failing which, the Court will proceed with the matter and may pass an ex parte order/decree against you, for which you shall be solely responsible.
// Court Order //
P. Sundaram B.Com, LL.B.,
Advocate & Notary Public,
2A, P.S. Complex,
Gobichettipalayam Taluk,
Erode District.
Cell: 98423-75099.

QUICK READ

Jaipur doctor's tool spots lung disease early

JAIPUR

A Jaipur doctor has developed a new tool to detect Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis early, a serious lung condition that can cause permanent scarring. Dr. Sheetu Singh created the HP-SAQE questionnaire to improve diagnosis across South Asia. It is designed for countries like India Pakistan Sri Lanka and Bhutan where the disease is common. The tool shows over 90 percent accuracy in tests and is published in the medical journal Thorax. It helps doctors ask better environmental questions so patients can get treatment before lung damage becomes severe. This simple method gives new hope to patients across South Asia saving lives early.

West Asia crisis hits Ludhiana handtool industry

LUDHIANA

Export focused handtool manufacturers in Ludhiana are facing rising pressure due to the ongoing West Asia crisis. Companies report labour shortages, higher production costs, and irregular gas supply, all of which are slowing output. Businesses are also struggling with high interest rates, limited container availability, and increased shipping and air freight charges. Rising insurance costs have added to the burden, raising concerns over export performance. Industry players say the situation is affecting competitiveness in global markets. However, they remain hopeful that the temporary ceasefire between the US and Iran may ease tensions and improve supply conditions soon.

Serial road crash kills couple in MP's Guna

GUNA

A tragic road accident in Guna district of Madhya Pradesh killed a couple and injured their grandson and another motorcyclist after a collision involving a tractor, car, and two bikes on Saturday night. Police said the tractor driver lost control while overtaking, leading to the crash, and has been detained for investigation. Victims have been identified as Kailash Singh and Badi Bai, while the four-year-old grandson Ashish and another injured youth are being treated in hospital, officials said. Police have started investigation and eyewitness accounts are being examined to determine exact cause of accident further inquiry continues.

VP calls for blending science with tradition to transform tribal lives

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan urges blending modern science with ancient traditions to empower India's tribal communities for national growth

NEW DELHI

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan on Sunday said modern development and old traditions must go hand in hand to help India's tribal communities grow stronger.

He was speaking after inaugurating a conference on 'Transformation of Tribal Lives through Science and Technological Interventions – Preserving Language, Faith and Culture" at Bharat Mandapam in the national capital.

He explained that India has about 140,000 tribal villages and these groups make up nearly 10% of the country. He praised these communities for protecting the environment and keeping India's ancient history alive for hundreds of years. "When modern science works with culture, it becomes a powerful force for protection," he said.

Radhakrishnan highlighted that tribal areas are perfect for "green" businesses. He specifically pointed out the amazing skills tribal people have in making clothes and using colors. He believes these talents can help the economy grow without destroying tradition.

He also spoke about big government projects. One project, called PM-JANMAN, is already building thousands of kilometers of new roads and bridges. Another plan aims to bring clean water, homes, and schools to over 63,000 tribal villages.

Finally, he thanked the ITI-TI Doon Sanskriti School for its 25 years of work. The school has given free, high-quality education to over 2,000 tribal children from places like Ladakh and the North-East.

He finished by saying that India can only become a developed nation if it respects its past while moving toward the future. Development and tradition, he noted, are not enemies, they are partners.

Mamata vows to topple BJP at Centre

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched a bold new "resolution", vowing to remove the BJP from national power after winning her state's upcoming elections. Speaking at a large rally in Bankura's Onda district, she told supporters that victory in Bengal would be the first step toward changing the government in Delhi. "We will conquer Bengal and then bid farewell to the BJP in Delhi," Banerjee declared. She timed this goal with the Bengali New Year, calling on citizens to make the "farewell" their top priority on the first day of Baishakh. The Trinamool Congress leader spent much of her speech contrasting her party's work with the BJP's record. She highlighted the construction of 13 million permanent homes in Bengal and promised that every "raw" house would eventually be upgraded. She also pledged that clean tap water would soon reach every household in the state.Banerjee accused the BJP of being a party of "broken promises." She claimed that while her government delivers on its word, the BJP disappears once votes are cast. She specifically cited failed promises of cash transfers to women in other states, like Bihar, and accused the central government of using "bulldozers" instead of providing aid. Responding to a recent "charge sheet" filed against her by Home Minister Amit Shah, the Chief Minister fired back with her own accusations.

BMW driver caught using secret number plate trick

HYDERABAD

Traffic police in Hyderabad were stunned this weekend when they uncovered a James Bond-style trick during a routine drunk driving check.

A BMW driver in the upscale Jubilee Hills area was caught using a high-tech "flip" mechanism to swap his license plates at the touch of a button.

The driver had installed an advanced system that allowed him to switch between a Delhi registration and a Telangana plate remotely. This clever but illegal gadget was designed to help the driver avoid traffic cameras and "challan" fines. Police officials noted that this is the first time they have ever seen such a sophisticated device used on city roads. The driver, who was allegedly intoxicated at the time, was stopped during a massive citywide crackdown. Police immediately seized the luxury car and have filed a formal case against the owner.

This arrest was part of a broader weekend sweep where Hyderabad and Cyberabad police caught over 700 drunk drivers. Most violators were young people between the ages of 21 and 30, with 16 individuals already sentenced to jail time.

Authorities are now warning the public that high-tech cheating will not save them from the law. Under new legal rules, causing a fatal accident while drunk can lead to ten years in prison. For the BMW owner, his attempt to hide from a few fines has instead led to a serious criminal investigation and the loss of his vehicle.

Giant machine to dig bullet train tunnel

MUMBAI

Engineers have reached a major milestone in the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail project. Teams began assembling a massive Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) deep underground at Sawli.

The work is happening 39 meters below the surface, roughly the height of a 13-story building.

The assembly started with the lowering of a "gantry," a giant support structure weighing 190 metric tons. This piece alone is 18 meters long and 9 meters high. Because the shaft at Sawli is so tight, experts had to plan every move perfectly to fit the heavy machinery into the underground space.

This TBM is the second of its kind for the project. Once fully built, it will travel from

Sawli toward Vikhroli, carving out the path for India's first bullet train. The machine doesn't just dig, it also installs the tunnel lining and handles waterproofing as it moves along. Officials expect the machine to start its "initial drive" or digging journey in July 2026.

The 508-kilometer project, which connects Mumbai to Ahmedabad, is being built with help from the Japanese government. While land delays in Maharashtra slowed things down until 2021, the project is now moving at full speed. All the necessary land has been acquired, and 1,651 utility lines have been moved out of the way. Once finished, the line will feature 12 stations, helping passengers zip between the two major cities in record time.

Those who contempt Vande Mataram have no place in country: Yogi

KOLKATA

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stirred the political landscape in West Bengal during a high-stakes election rally.

Speaking to a large crowd in East Midnapore, the firebrand leader issued a blunt ultimatum, those who refuse to respect the national song, "Vande Mataram," have no place in the country.

Adityanath connected his home state's spiritual roots to Bengal's patriotic history. He reminded the audience that Bengal is the birthplace of the national anthem and song, as well as heroes like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. He argued that the "national spirit" is non-negotiable and criticized anyone who stands against these patriotic symbols.

The Chief Minister didn't stop at national pride. He launched a heavy attack on the Trinamool Congress (TMC), accusing the state government of choosing "appeasement politics" over the safety of its citizens. He specifically claimed that the TMC is blocking border fencing to allow illegal entry for "vote bank" reasons.

The speech turned even more personal when he addressed recent violence in the state. Adityanath accused Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of staying silent during horrific crimes, including the RG Kar Medical College tragedy, to protect political supporters.

By the end of his third rally of the day, Adityanath's message was clear. He praised Prime Minister Modi for fulfilling long-held dreams, like removing Article 370, while painting the current Bengal government as a barrier to peace. For him, the choice for voters is between national unity and local chaos.

KTR slams Cong over corruption in Telangana

HYDERABAD

BRS leader K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) launched a blistering attack on the Congress government, accusing it of turning corruption into an official system.

Speaking in Mancherial district, KTR alleged that a "loot-and-hide" scheme is currently running across the state, involving everyone from local MLAs to top ministers.

KTR specifically pointed fingers at Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, claiming the state is seeing financial irregularities at a scale never before seen in India. He also raised eyebrows by suggesting the Congress and BJP are actually working together. He noted that while top BJP leaders previously labeled the Telangana Congress as an "ATM," no federal agencies have stepped in to investigate.

The most serious allegations involved the Singareni Collieries, a major coal company. KTR claimed thousands of crores are being siphoned off through

rigged contracts influenced by the Chief Minister's family. He questioned why the Central government, which owns nearly half the company, has remained silent on these supposed scams.

The BRS leader didn't just stop at financial accusations. He claimed that in the Kyathanpalli municipality, the Congress used police intimidation to stay in power despite losing public support. KTR ended his speech with a warning, if the government doesn't address worker concerns and stop the corruption, the BRS will launch massive protests across every coal mine in the state. He urged voters to "reject the corrupt regime" in the upcoming local elections.

Cash van workers vanish with 1.2 cr

HYDERABAD

Police have launched a massive manhunt for two employees of a cash management firm who allegedly disappeared with over ₹1.20 crore meant for city ATMs. The theft came to light after an internal audit revealed massive shortages across several machines in the SR Nagar area.

The suspects, identified as Vasireddy and Lateef, worked as custodians for CMS Info Systems Limited. Their job was simple, to collect cash from banks and refill ATMs. However, when the branch manager noticed the pair hadn't shown up for work or answered their phones for two days, he ordered an immediate check of their assigned routes. The audit was a shock. Out of 31 ATMs inspected, 8 were found to be completely missing their cash loads. In total, the shortage added up to exactly ₹1,20,98,500. The company quickly realized that while the records showed the machines were full, the physical cash had vanished along with the two men.

SR Nagar police have now formed special teams to track the duo. Detectives are currently scouring hours of CCTV footage from the targeted ATMs and analyzing cell phone records to trace their escape route.

While one team hunts for the missing millions, other Hyderabad officers spent Sunday conducting a door-to-door campaign to fight a different kind of theft, cybercrime. From Goshamahal to Toli Chowki, police used auto-rickshaws and loudspeakers to warn residents about phishing links and OTP scams, reminding everyone that in the digital age, your money can vanish just as fast as it did from those ATMs.

INDIA-CHINA AP ROW

'BASELESS NARRATIVES CANNOT ALTER REALITY'

NEW DELHI

India has firmly pushed back against China's latest attempt to rename several locations in Arunachal Pradesh.

The Indian government officially dismissed these "mischievous" efforts, calling the new titles "fictitious" and completely baseless. New Delhi made it clear that changing names on a map does nothing to alter the "undeniable reality" that the state is an inseparable part of India.

The dispute flared up after

Beijing announced its own Chinese names for various areas within the northeastern state. This move is seen by experts as an attempt to manufacture a narrative to support China's territorial claims. However, India's Ministry of External Affairs responded sharply, stating that such actions are a waste of time and cannot change historical or legal facts.

Beyond just rejecting the names, India sent a stern warning to its neighbor. The government urged China to stop taking actions that "inject negativity" into an already strained relationship. Officials stressed that these moves only serve to undermine ongoing efforts to build trust and create a better understanding between the two most populous nations in the world.

For the people of Arunachal Pradesh and the rest of the country, the message is one of strength and stability. While Beijing continues to push its territorial agenda through paperwork and pronouncements, India's stance remains unchanged, the territory is, and always will be, Indian. As tensions linger, New Delhi remains committed to protecting its borders and maintaining its territorial integrity against any outside interference.

QUICK READ

TMC expels district women leader ahead polls

KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress has expelled Minu Bauri, the recently appointed Purulia District Mahila Congress president, with immediate effect ahead of the West Bengal Assembly elections. The decision was approved by party chief Mamata Banerjee, according to an official statement. The move comes as the state gears up for voting in two phases on April 23 and 29, with results due on May 4. The election is shaping into a major contest between the Trinamool Congress and the BJP. Political tensions have increased as both parties intensify campaigning across West Bengal before the upcoming polls now.

Death toll rises in Mathura boat tragedy

MATHURA

The death toll in the boat capsize incident in Mathura has risen to 12 after one more body was recovered near Chamunda Ghat. Search and rescue operations are continuing along the Yamuna River in Vrindavan. Officials said multiple teams, including NDRF, SDRF, police, fire brigade, and local divers, are working together. The river area has been divided into sectors to speed up the search. Authorities believe more bodies may be found downstream. Rescue efforts resumed early morning with intensified operations. Safety measures have also been strengthened at ghats in nearby regions following the tragedy.

BJP confident of victory in Tripura ADC polls

AGARTALA

BJP candidate Bipin Debbarma expressed confidence that his party will form the government in the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council elections after casting his vote. He said polling was being held peacefully and voters were participating with enthusiasm. Debbarma, contesting from Damcherra-Kachucherra constituency, praised the smooth conduct of the election. Early data showed strong voter turnout across several constituencies, with women slightly outnumbering men in initial hours. A total of 173 candidates are in the fray for 28 seats. The election is being held under the Sixth Schedule framework in tribal regions.

India set to be top defence power: Rajnath Singh

Singh said that India's domestic defence production reached ₹1.51 lakh crore, as Lucknow becomes a key hub for manufacturing BrahMos missiles by 2026.

LUCKNOW

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced that India is on the verge of total self-reliance in the military sector. Speaking at a ceremony for war heroes and their families, Singh declared that India is quickly rising to join the world's most powerful nations in arms manufacturing.

The numbers back up his confidence. In the 2024-25 fiscal year, India's domestic defence production hit a record ₹1.51 lakh crore. Even more impressive is the growth in international trade; defence exports reached an all-time high of ₹38,424 crore during the 2025-26 period. Singh noted that these figures are the foundation of a truly "empowered India."

Lucknow is playing a starring role in this military boom. The city has been named a "Defence Node" alongside Agra and Kanpur. Most notably, the first batch of BrahMos missiles—one of the world's fastest cruise missiles—has already been built in Lucknow and handed over to the Indian Army. Small and large factories are now popping up across the city to support this new industry.

The event, also attended by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, celebrated the bravery of soldiers while looking toward a high-tech future. Following the ceremony, the leaders attended a "Shaurya Smriti" laser show to honor India's military history. For Lucknow, the message was clear, the city is no longer just a cultural capital, but a critical engine in India's push to build its own weapons and protect its own borders.

Vijay claims 2-way battle for Tamil Nadu

Vijay frames the Tamil Nadu elections as a direct two-way battle between his party and the ruling DMK.

KANYAKUMARI

Actor-turned-politician Vijay made a bold statement, declaring that the upcoming Tamil Nadu assembly elections are strictly a two-way fight.

Speaking to a massive crowd in Kanyakumari, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief dismissed rumors of a multi-sided contest, insisting the real battle lies solely between his party and the ruling DMK.

Despite analysts describing a "four-cornered" race, Vijay told supporters that the choice is simple. "It is not a 4-cornered or 40-cornered fight," he shouted to the cheering sea of fans. "There are only two sides. Do you want an anti-people government under Stalin, or do you want Vijay, who truly loves the people?" He framed the April 23 polls as a direct referendum on the current administration's performance versus his vision for the state.The atmosphere was electric as Vijay took his outreach efforts to a personal level. In a move that delighted his cadres, the superstar rode a bicycle through the cordoned-off venue. While a similar attempt in Karaikudi turned chaotic when fans rushed toward him, organizers in Kanyakumari ensured a smoother experience. The bicycle ride has become a signature move for his campaign, symbolizing his desire to stay connected with the common man.

As the election draws near, Vijay's direct challenge to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin signals a high-stakes showdown. With thousands of supporters backing him, the actor is betting that his personal popularity can break the traditional political mold of Tamil Nadu.

Rescue mission brings 600 fishermen home safely

CHENNAI

Union Minister Piyush Goyal arrived at Chennai International Airport to welcome home more than 300 Indian fishermen.

This group marks the second batch of citizens successfully evacuated from Iran as conflict continues to grip the region. To date, the government has safely brought back over 600 people who were caught in the middle of the war.

The rescue was a complex diplomatic operation. Under the direction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of External Affairs worked with Indian embassies to move the stranded workers from Iran into Armenia.

From there, special flights were arranged to bring them back to India. Minister Goyal praised the team led by Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar for ensuring the safety of these "brave fishermen" from the very first day the fighting began.

The returnees primarily hail from coastal districts in Tamil Nadu, such as Kanyakumari and Nagapattinam, as well as parts of Gujarat, Kerala, and Puducherry. Most had moved to Iran to support their families back home. One fisherman, Silvester from Kanyakumari, shared his immense relief upon landing, thanking the government for providing food and protection during the dangerous journey.

Minister Goyal emphasized that while the fishermen come from different states, they are united by the support of 140 crore Indians. He noted that the Prime Minister's focus remains on protecting every citizen stuck in a crisis abroad.

With the successful arrival of this second flight, hundreds of families across India's coastline can finally breathe a sigh of relief.

INDIAN FISHERMEN PRAISE EMBASSY AFTER EVACUATION

CHENNAI

Indian fishermen who returned home from Iran have thanked the Indian Embassy and government for helping them escape amid rising tensions. One fisherman from Gujarat said he had been working in Iran's Kiru region for four years before worsening conditions forced them to leave. He said embassy teams helped stranded workers and arranged safe passage back to India through coordinated efforts across regions. Another returnee described dangerous conditions before evacuation. Officials said over 600 fishermen have been brought back safely so far from Iran with support from Indian missions in Iran and Armenia during the crisis situation.

Mayurbhanj celebrates heritage with Chaitra Parba

MAYURBHANJ

The vibrant Chaitra Parba festival has officially begun in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district. This three-day celebration leads up to the Odia New Year, turning the region into a colorful stage for India's rich folk traditions and martial arts.

District Collector Hema Kanta explained that the festival is more than just a party, it marks a fresh start for the district's development and vision. A major highlight this year is the famous Chhau dance, a traditional martial art form native to Mayurbhanj. To make the event even more special, the district has invited folk and martial artists from Rajasthan, Gujarat, and South India. This "cultural exchange" allows performers from different states to learn from one another and help traditional art forms grow and evolve.

The government is also using the festival to reward excellence. A new honor called the 'Mayurbhanj Champion Award' will be given to 20–25 people each year who have made great progress in local development. Beyond the dancing, the festival grounds feature stalls designed to help local workers earn a better living, focusing on empowering the community from the ground up.

For those who cannot travel to Baripada to see the performances in person, the district has made the entire festival available to watch online. This ensures that everyone, no matter where they are, can join in the New Year celebrations and witness the historic art and culture that Mayurbhanj is known for.

Sunetra Pawar honors late leader before polls

BARAMATI

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar visited the memorial of her late husband, Ajit Pawar, to pay her respects. Accompanied by her son, Jay Pawar, she offered prayers before starting her official campaign for the upcoming Baramati Assembly by-election. This visit marks a symbolic start to a high-stakes political race triggered by tragedy.

The Baramati seat became vacant earlier this year following the sudden death of former NCP chief Ajit Pawar in a plane crash. In the wake of his passing, Sunetra Pawar was appointed as the Deputy Chief Minister and took over as the head of the Nationalist Congress Party. To keep her position in the state cabinet, she must now win this assembly seat.

The election is set for April 23, with the final results expected on May 4. While Sunetra Pawar is running as part of the Mahayuti alliance, she has publicly called for an unopposed election out of respect for her husband's legacy. In a significant move, the Congress party recently withdrew their candidate, Akash More, from the race as a tribute to the late leader's memory.

The family's political presence remains strong, just this week, Sunetra's son, Parth, was sworn in as a member of the Rajya Sabha in New Delhi. As the campaign officially begins, Sunetra Pawar is focusing on continuing her husband's work in his home constituency, while other regions like Rahuri also prepare for similar by-polls following the loss of local representatives.

NEW TRAINS BRING BETTER RIDES FOR COMMUTERS

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro is giving its oldest trains a massive makeover to make your daily commute smoother and safer.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) recently launched a major project to fix up trains on the busy Blue Line.

These trains have been running for over twenty years and finally deserve a fresh, modern look.

Managing Director Dr. Vikas Kumar recently checked the first finished train before it hit the tracks. This project is part of a plan to upgrade seventy trains across the Red and Blue lines. So far, thirty-one trains are already shining like new.

Officials say these updates focus on making sure every passenger feels comfortable and secure while traveling across the city.

Inside, the coaches look brand new with fresh paint and better lighting.

If you need to stay connected, you will love the new mobile and laptop charging points now available in every carriage. Safety has also been improved with a high-tech fire detection system and new security cameras. Finding your way is now easier too, thanks to clear LCD maps and better speakers that announce the next station.

These "middle-aged" trains are getting a second life with better electrical parts to prevent breakdowns. By November 2027, twenty-two more Blue Line trains will finish their transformation.

For millions of Delhi residents, these changes mean more than just fancy screens, they mean a reliable, safe, and happy journey home every single day.

KUWAIT CRASH REPATRIATION

'Help wanted to bring home fallen youths'

SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) has reached out to India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, for urgent help. They are asking the government to bring back the bodies of six young men killed in a horrific road accident in Kuwait earlier this week.

The tragedy happened on the busy highway near the Saad Al Abdullah area. The victims, now identified as Fareed Ahmed, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Mohd Khaliq, Mukhtar Ahmed, Mumtaz Rashid, and Tasweer Hussain, were driving home from work when their vehicle crashed into another car. The impact caused a massive fire, and most of the men were unable to escape the flames.

All the victims came from the Poonch and Rajouri districts of Jammu and Kashmir. According to the JKSA, these young men moved to Kuwait to find better jobs and were the only ones earning money for their families back home.

Their sudden deaths have left their small communities in deep shock and mourning.

The association's leader, Nasir Khuehami, explained that the families are heartbroken and desperate to say their final goodbyes. They want to perform the last rites in their home villages according to their own traditions.

The JKSA is now urging the Ministry of External Affairs to work with officials in Kuwait to speed up the process of returning the remains to India.

For these families, bringing their loved ones home is the first step toward finding peace after such a terrible loss.

Pedal to progress as fitness becomes priority

NEW DELHI

The streets of India filled with the rhythmic sound of bicycle gears and cheering crowds. Leading the charge, Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya joined thousands for the 69th edition of 'Fit India Sundays on Cycle,' sending a clear message, a healthy citizen is the backbone of a successful country.

Speaking to reporters during the event, Mandaviya emphasized that fitness is no longer just a personal choice but a national necessity. He noted that the weekly cycling drive has evolved into a massive movement across the country. Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, the youth are now more conscious about their health than ever before.The Minister explained that to build a developed and wealthy nation, the foundation must be a strong and energetic society. By choosing to cycle, people are not only improving their heart health but also fighting modern problems like obesity and rising pollution. This weekly initiative is a massive team effort. Organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports alongside various national sports federations, the event happens simultaneously in every state and union territory. From local coaching centers to major national sports hubs, the movement has reached every corner of the map.

QUICK READ

Taiwan reports increased Chinese military activity

Taipei

Taiwan's Defence Ministry said it detected Chinese military activity near its territory, including aircraft sorties and naval vessels. Officials reported two aircraft sorties, eight naval vessels, and four official ships operating around the island. Some aircraft reportedly crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's air defence identification zone. The military said it is closely monitoring the situation and responding accordingly. Similar activity was also reported the previous day on a larger scale. Taiwan continues to view such movements as a security concern. China claims Taiwan as its own, while Taiwan maintains its independent government and military.

Nepal tattoo convention blends tradition and art

Lalitpur

Nepal is hosting the 13th International Tattoo Convention, bringing together body art from around the world. Over 250 artists from nearly 25 countries are participating in the event. Tattooists are creating designs that mix modern styles with traditional symbols like Hindu deities and cultural motifs. Organisers say the event promotes global artistic exchange and helps local artists learn new techniques. The convention also reflects Nepal's long tattoo tradition among indigenous communities. Younger generations are now blending cultural heritage with modern aesthetics. Despite travel disruptions, the event continues to draw attention as a major global tattoo art platform.

US Navy begins mine clearing in Hormuz Strait

Tampa

The US Navy has begun mine-clearance operations in the Strait of Hormuz to secure one of the world's most important shipping routes. Two guided-missile destroyers are now operating in the Arabian Gulf as part of the mission. Officials said the effort aims to remove sea mines and ensure safe passage for commercial vessels. The Strait has seen rising tensions due to military activity and attacks in the region. Energy markets have been affected, with oil prices surging. The operation is expected to support global trade and restore stability to the vital maritime corridor today for shipping safety.

Pak hits citizens with higher power bills

Pakistan faces a double economic blow as electricity prices soar following a significant rise in national fuel costs.

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan is facing a fresh economic crisis as the government raised electricity prices by Rs 1.42 per unit.

This "double whammy" comes immediately after a significant rise in fuel prices at the pump, leaving citizens with nowhere to hide from the soaring cost of living.

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) announced that this increase is due to higher fuel costs recorded in February. This change means consumers will collectively have to pay an extra Rs 10.57 billion in their April bills. The situation is particularly grim as global energy markets remain unstable due to ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, suggesting that even more price hikes could be on the horizon.

Local industries are also sounding the alarm. Business leaders warn that the industrial sector has already faced over Rs 564 billion in additional costs over the last three years. They fear that making power even more expensive will force factories to shut down, as they can no longer remain competitive or sustainable.

However, experts point out that the country's power troubles aren't just about global events. In the last year alone, the power sector lost Rs 397 billion due to old, inefficient wires and a failure to collect payments from customers. Authorities are also under fire for making massive "fixed payments" to power companies, even when they aren't producing electricity. Until these deep structural issues are fixed, Pakistani households and businesses will likely continue to struggle with an increasingly unmanageable energy crisis.

Rawalpindi shutdown, sparks food crisis

ISLAMABAD: Life in Rawalpindi slowed sharply this weekend after authorities ordered all markets to close due to security concerns linked to important talks in Islamabad. From large grain markets to small milk shops, everything stayed shut, leaving many residents without basic food items. Families faced serious trouble as bread, vegetables, and milk became hard to find. Low gas pressure in homes made cooking even more difficult. With public transport unavailable, taxi and rickshaw drivers raised fares, adding to people's struggles. Despite the public's sacrifice, the talks did not succeed. US Vice President J.D. Vance said after long discussions that no agreement was reached, as Iran did not accept key conditions on nuclear issues. He warned the outcome was not good for Iran and stressed the US would not accept weak promises. Meanwhile, shopkeepers and residents now wait for normal life to return soon.

Global financial leaders meet amid economic shocks

WASHINGTON

Finance ministers and central bankers from 191 nations are gathering in Washington DC, this week for the IMF and World Bank spring meetings.

The high-stakes summit comes at a critical time as the world grapples with extreme economic uncertainty caused by the ongoing Middle East crisis. While a fragile ceasefire currently exists, experts warn that the global economy remains in a very dangerous position.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has already signaled that upcoming economic growth forecasts will likely be lowered. Earlier this year, global output was expected to rise by 3.3%, but the conflict has disrupted these hopes. The war has hit the energy sector particularly hard, cutting daily global oil flows by 13% and liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies by 20%. These shortages have caused prices to skyrocket and created massive delays in international supply chains.

Global finance leaders are meeting in Washington to tackle economic instability as Middle East conflicts disrupt energy supplies and force lower global growth forecasts for 2026.

The meetings will focus on finding ways to "weather this latest shock" and protect vulnerable people from rising costs. Leaders will discuss how to manage financial stability and prevent poverty from deepening during this volatile period. Beyond energy concerns, the officials will evaluate the resilience of major economies like the US and the euro zone, which are showing signs of strain. By bringing together the world's top financial minds, the IMF and World Bank hope to coordinate policies that can stabilize markets. The goal is to move from simply surviving these shocks to laying a foundation for a more secure and predictable global recovery.

US fails to win trust during talks

TEHRAN

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Ghalibaf stated that the United States failed to earn Iran's trust during high-level negotiations in Pakistan.

Despite what he called Tehran's "good faith" and new initiatives, Ghalibaf argued that historical tensions prevented a breakthrough.

He emphasized that while the US now understands Iran's principles, the burden remains on Washington to prove it can be a reliable partner.

The 21-hour marathon session in Islamabad, which Ghalibaf led for the Iranian side, ended without a signed agreement. He praised his team for their intense efforts and thanked the Iranian public for their support following the Supreme Leader's guidance.

Ghalibaf described diplomacy as a necessary "method of authority" to uphold national rights, standing alongside military defense to protect the country's achievements.

On the other side, US Vice President JD Vance confirmed the talks collapsed after Tehran rejected Washington's final terms. Vance warned that this failure is "bad news for Iran," noting that the U.S. was very clear about its "red lines." The primary goal for the U.S. remains a permanent commitment from Iran to never pursue nuclear weapons or the tools to build them.

The deadlock marks a major setback in cooling regional tensions. While both sides held substantive discussions, the gap remains wide over sanctions relief and nuclear enrichment limits. Vance stressed that the U.S. is looking for long-term guarantees rather than temporary fixes. As both delegations head home, the future of diplomatic engagement over Iran's nuclear program remains highly uncertain.

Iran internet blackout hits record amid failed talks

TEHRAN: Iran's nationwide internet shutdown entered more than its 45th day, becoming the longest such blackout ever recorded. Data from NetBlocks showed the disruption has broken global records, leaving millions cut off from the digital world. The blackout began after military strikes involving the United States and Israel. Since then, authorities have kept strict control over online access. Experts say the move has caused serious economic losses and daily hardships for citizens. At the same time, peace talks between Tehran and Washington failed to reach an agreement. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said Iran lacked trust due to past conflicts. Officials stressed that although discussions lasted many hours, key issues remained unresolved. Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said diplomacy would continue despite tensions. Meanwhile, former US President Donald Trump raised concerns about further action, keeping the situation uncertain.

China may use Mideast war to expand territory

BEIJING

As global attention remains fixed on the Middle East, a new report warns that China may seize this moment to grow its power across Asia.

The analysis suggests that while the United States is busy handling a "fragile ceasefire" and peace talks in the West, Beijing is finding strategic gaps to exploit in the Indo-Pacific region.

The report explains that China often benefits most when the U.S. is distracted elsewhere. Historically, whenever American resources are tied down in Middle Eastern conflicts, China has expanded its footprint. For example, during the Iraq War, Beijing increased its presence in the South China Sea with very little resistance. Similarly, when the U.S. left Afghanistan in 2021, China immediately ramped up military pressure near Taiwan, sending hundreds of fighter jets into restricted airspace.

A major concern is the shifting of military assets. When U.S. aircraft carriers move to the Red Sea or Mediterranean to handle crises, they are no longer patrolling the Western Pacific. This shift creates a "vulnerability" that China uses to its advantage. Instead of starting a direct war, Beijing uses "calibrated actions" like building new infrastructure or holding massive military drills, to slowly change the reality on the ground.

The report also points to India's northern borders and the 2020 Galwan clash as examples of this slow-motion expansion. By making small, irreversible moves while the world is looking away, China aims to reshape the Asian landscape without ever triggering a full-scale confrontation.

Global leaders are condemning a brutal terrorist attack on a Shia shrine in Afghanistan that left many civilians dead.

World leaders condemn deadly Afghan shrine attack

KABUL

Global leaders are expressing deep outrage after gunmen opened fire at a shrine in Afghanistan's Injil district.

The brutal attack, which targeted civilians from the Shia minority community, left several people dead and many others wounded. Witnesses reported that armed men on motorcycles separated men from women before robbing the victims and shooting them at close range.

The European Union led the international outcry, describing the incident as a "heinous attack" and an unjustifiable act of terror. In a statement of solidarity, the EU delegation to Afghanistan offered condolences to the grieving families. Meanwhile, UN Special Rapporteur Richard Bennett called for an independent investigation. He noted that the violence appears to follow a disturbing pattern of attacks against the Shia community and insisted that those responsible must be brought to justice.

Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai also spoke out, labeling the shooting a "crime against humanity." He highlighted that women and children were among the casualties, emphasizing the tragic nature of the incident. While official death tolls remain unclear, local hospital sources suggest the number of victims is higher than initially reported.

This latest shooting has reignited fears over the safety of minority groups in western Afghanistan, where similar violence has occurred in recent years. As the community mourns, human rights advocates are demanding better protection for vulnerable groups and a swift end to the cycle of targeted killings. For now, the region remains on high alert as authorities search for the attackers.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

1	7	5	8		3			6
		4	1			8	5	3
3	8	2	5			7		9
4	1	9				2	3	7
	2		9		1	6		8
8	3		7	2	4		9	1
		8			7		6	
7	5			6	9		8	
		1	3	5		9	7	4

4	3	2	5	1	7	8	9	6
1	7	6	8	9	3	4	2	5
8	5	9	4	6	2	1	3	7
2	1	7	6	4	8	3	5	9
9	6	8	3	7	5	2	1	4
3	4	5	9	2	1	7	6	8
5	8	1	7	3	6	9	4	2
7	2	4	1	5	9	6	8	3
6	9	3	2	8	4	5	7	1

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

Machete attack at Grand Central leaves 3 injured

NEW YORK CITY

A terrifying scene unfolded at Grand Central Station when a man armed with a machete attacked three elderly commuters.

The unprovoked violence occurred around 9:50 a.m. on the busy 4, 5, 6 subway platform. Police say the attacker, identified as 44-year-old Anthony Griffin, reportedly called himself "Lucifer" during the assault.

The victims included an 85-year-old man with a deep head wound, a 65-year-old man also struck in the head, and a 70-year-old woman slashed in the shoulder. Two NYPD detectives quickly confronted Griffin, ordering him to drop the weapon at least 20 times. Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch stated that officers tried to de-escalate the situation by offering the man help, but he refused to comply. When Griffin advanced toward the officers with the blade raised, they opened fire.

Griffin was later pronounced dead. Mayor Zohran Mamdani praised the NYPD for their rapid response, noting that their actions likely prevented further bloodshed. The three victims were rushed to the hospital and are currently in stable condition.

As per standard policy for officer-involved shootings, the NYPD is conducting an internal investigation and plans to release body-camera footage soon. This incident follows a period of heightened tension in the city, including a recent attempted bomb attack near the Mayor's residence in March. Security remains tight at major transit hubs as the investigation into Saturday's violence continues.

WAREHOUSE TRAGEDY

2 firefighters killed in Wando cold storage fire

SEOUL

A tragic fire at a cold storage warehouse in Wando County has claimed the lives of two brave firefighters.

The blaze broke out at a fisheries processing plant during routine floor repairs. While more than 100 emergency workers rushed to the scene, the situation turned deadly when a sudden explosion trapped two rescuers inside the building.

The fire reportedly started while workers were using a torch to strip paint from the floor. This ignited highly flammable materials, causing flames to spread rapidly through the facility. Although the initial fire seemed under control, the two victims, aged 30 and 44, re-entered the structure to put out remaining sparks. It was then that a cloud of oil mist near the ceiling exploded, cutting off their escape route. While five of their colleagues managed to get out safely following an emergency radio order, the two heroes were unable to find their way through the thick black smoke.

President Lee Jae Myung expressed his deepest heartbreak over the loss, praising the men for fulfilling their duties to the very end. He promised that the government would investigate why the fire grew so quickly and work to make the job safer for other first responders.

Investigators believe the warehouse's "sandwich panel" walls and epoxy flooring acted as fuel, making the fire nearly impossible to fight. As the community mourns, officials are calling for stricter safety rules during industrial renovations to prevent such a tragedy from happening again.

QUICK READ

Railways approves massive ₹1.53 lakh crore expansion

New Delhi

Indian Railways has approved 100 new projects worth ₹1.53 lakh crore, marking a major boost to transport. The plan will add over 6,000 kilometers of tracks and aims to reduce congestion and delays. Key states include Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh. Many projects will also connect remote and tribal areas, improving access to jobs, schools, and hospitals. Over 35 projects are mega ones costing above ₹1,000 crore. Officials say the move will create jobs, increase demand for steel and cement, and strengthen cargo capacity for faster movement of goods nationwide in India today now.

Centre raises fuel export duty to control supply

New Delhi

The Centre has sharply increased export duty on diesel and aviation turbine fuel to ensure enough supply within the country. Diesel duty rose to ₹55.5 per litre from ₹21.5, while ATF duty increased to ₹42 from ₹29.5. Petrol export duty remains unchanged at zero. The move aims to discourage exports by refiners and stabilise domestic prices. Officials said global supply disruptions have pushed fuel prices higher. The government hopes this step will maintain steady availability. India, though reliant on imports, exports large amounts of refined fuels to several countries across the world.

Bhutan hydropower project restarts after seven years

New Delhi

Work on Bhutan's Punatsangchhu-I hydropower project has resumed after a seven-year pause due to geological issues. The 1,200 MW project, supported by India, is expected to be completed within five years. Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar attended a ceremony marking the restart of dam construction. The project will boost Bhutan's hydropower capacity by about 30 percent and generate significant electricity. It highlights strong India-Bhutan cooperation in energy. Once finished, surplus power will be exported to India. Officials say the project will also support economic growth and strengthen ties between the two nations.

World better prepared for oil shocks now

Washington

The global economy is facing rising oil prices again, similar to the 1970s crisis, but experts say countries are now better prepared. Over the years, nations have improved energy efficiency, reduced reliance on Middle East oil, and developed alternative sources like solar and gas. Stockpiles and better policies also help manage supply disruptions. While high fuel costs still affect people and businesses, the impact is less severe than before. The United States and others have also increased domestic production. Experts warn oil remains important, but economies today are stronger and more resilient to sudden price shocks globally.

IndianOil cracks down on gas distribution scams

IndianOil launched a massive nationwide crackdown on gas hoarding and black marketing to protect Indian households.

NEW DELHI

IndianOil Corporation is taking a tough stand against unfair practices to ensure every household gets its cooking gas.

The company recently completed over 10,600 surprise inspections to stop illegal activities. These checks have led to strict punishments for dishonest dealers, including formal warnings and immediate business suspensions.

Working closely with state officials, authorities have conducted more than 1.2 lakh raids across the country. These efforts resulted in nearly 990 police complaints filed against people involved in hoarding or selling cylinders on the black market. IndianOil confirmed that all gas agencies are now under constant watch to maintain high service standards for genuine customers.

The government is prioritizing domestic supplies to keep kitchens running smoothly. On April 10 alone, a record 51.5 lakh cylinders were delivered. There has also been a massive surge in the sale of smaller 5-kg cylinders, which are designed to help students and migrant workers. Since late March, over 12 lakh of these portable tanks have reached vulnerable communities. To help spread the word, oil companies held 2,900 awareness camps in just over a week.

Officials are urging the public not to panic-buy petrol, diesel, or gas. Instead of visiting crowded dealerships, customers should use mobile apps for bookings. The Ministry also suggested using electric stoves or piped gas where possible to save energy. By staying calm and using official digital platforms, citizens can help ensure that fuel distribution remains fair, transparent, and efficient for everyone during this busy period.

Strict enforcement measures are being undertaken to ensure smooth distribution of LPG cylinders and prevent irregularities in the system.

—Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

CENTRE STEPS UP MONITORING OF LPG SUPPLY

- Conducted over 1.16 lakh raids
- Issued 1,870 show-cause notices to LPG distributors
- Suspended 53 plus LPG distributors for violations

Central govt staff await huge pay hikes

NEW DELHI

Millions of central government employees and pensioners are eagerly waiting for the 8th Pay Commission's upcoming changes. This commission, which is formed every ten years, reviews how much money public workers should earn based on the current cost of living and the nation's economy.

The main goal is to adjust basic pay, pensions, and daily allowances to help families keep up with rising prices. A major part of this calculation is the "fitment factor." This is a special number used to multiply current salaries to reach a new, higher total. Experts believe this multiplier could be between 2.57 and 3.25, which would mean a significant boost in monthly take-home pay for many workers.

The government officially started this process in January 2025. While the new pay rates are supposed to start from January 1, 2026, history shows that these updates can take a while to actually reach bank accounts. In the past, it has taken anywhere from two to nearly four years for the full changes to be put into action.

Beyond just higher pay, the commission is looking at bonuses, medical benefits, and how government jobs compare to private-sector roles. Officials are also being careful to ensure the government has enough money for these raises without hurting other welfare programs. For now, workers are advised to watch for official updates as the commission finishes its deep dive into the country's financial health and employee needs.

The 8th Pay Commission is set to hike salaries and pensions for millions by 2026, potentially using a higher fitment factor to offset rising costs.

More women are choosing flexible IT roles in India, now making up forty percent of the sector's contract workforce.

More women choose flexible tech career paths

NEW DELHI

India's tech world is witnessing a major shift as more women embrace flexible and contractual work. A new report reveals that women now make up 40% of the flexi-workforce in the IT sector, a significant jump from just 30% four years ago.

This growth shows that flexible roles are no longer just a backup plan but a preferred choice for many professionals. Out of roughly 3.2 lakh contract workers in the industry, nearly 96,000 are women. These experts are moving beyond traditional support roles and taking over core business functions. Currently, Finance and Accounting is the most popular field for women in flexi-jobs, followed closely by Data Science and UX Design.

Geography plays a huge role in this trend. Tech giants in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune host over half of this talent pool. While metro cities like Delhi and Chennai remain strong hubs, smaller Tier-2 cities are starting to catch up, now making up about 11% of the market.

The report also highlights that this movement is led by women in the prime of their careers. The largest group of participants has between five to eight years of experience, suggesting that flexibility is key for mid-career growth. By offering a better balance between work and life, these roles are helping skilled women stay in the workforce and thrive in high-tech environments across the nation.

Stock markets soar as top firms gain

MUMBAI

India's stock market had a record-breaking week as the country's biggest companies saw their total value jump by over Rs 4.13 lakh crore.

This massive surge was driven by a wave of optimism among investors, leading to a nearly 6% rise in both the Sensex and Nifty indices.

The banking sector led the charge. HDFC Bank was the week's biggest winner, adding more than Rs 91,000 crore to its market value. Other financial giants like ICICI Bank and State Bank of India also saw huge gains, alongside big names like Bharti Airtel and Larsen & Toubro. Experts believe the rally was fueled by two main factors, a drop in global oil prices to below $100 and news of a temporary ceasefire between the U.S. and Iran. These events helped calm fears about rising costs and global instability.

While eight of the top ten firms celebrated big wins, a few struggled. IT leader Infosys and the nation's most valuable company, Reliance Industries, both saw minor dips in their total worth. Despite this small slide, Reliance remains the most valuable business in India, followed by HDFC Bank and Bharti Airtel.

Looking ahead, analysts suggest that while the market is currently "buoyant," people should remain cautious. While lower oil prices are great for India's economy, ongoing tensions in other parts of the world could still cause prices to swing. For now, however, the mood remains celebratory as billions of rupees return to the market.

India's innovation soars as patent filings peak

NEW DELHI

India has hit a major milestone in creativity and invention, with patent filings reaching an all-time high of 1.43 lakh this past year.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal announced that the nation's "innovation engine is unstoppable," reporting a massive 30% jump in activity compared to last year.

The most exciting part of this growth is that it is being driven from within. More than 69% of these new inventions were filed by Indians rather than foreign companies. Leading the way is Tamil Nadu, followed closely by other tech hubs like Karnataka and Maharashtra. Schools and colleges are also playing a huge role, contributing over one-third of all new ideas, showing that the next generation is ready to lead.

India is now the sixth-largest patent filer in the entire world. This isn't just a one-time spike, it is the eighth year in a row that filings have gone up. In fact, over the last five years, the number of people protecting their new ideas has grown by a staggering 146%.

To make things easier for inventors, the government has moved almost everything online. 95% of applications are filed through digital platforms, cutting through old-fashioned red tape. As the "Made in India" dream turns into "Invented in India," the country is quickly becoming a global leader in new technology, medicine, and engineering. This shift proves that Indian startups and researchers are more confident than ever in their ability to compete on the world stage.

India's seafood exports double to reach ₹62,408 cr

NEW DELHI

India's marine export sector has achieved a massive milestone, with earnings more than doubling over the last decade.

Official data reveals that exports jumped from ₹30,213 crore in 2014 to a record ₹62,408 crore this past year.

During the Seafood Exporters Meet 2026, Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh praised the industry for staying strong despite global challenges and slow international markets.

The star of the show remains frozen shrimp, which accounted for over ₹43,000 crore of the total value. While the United States stays the top buyer, India is successfully finding new customers in China, Europe, and Southeast Asia. To keep this momentum going, the government has set an ambitious new goal, reaching ₹1 lakh crore in annual exports. To hit this target, officials are urging exporters to focus on high-value fish like tuna and to explore the untouched waters around the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Minister Singh emphasized that success depends on following strict safety rules. This includes banning illegal antibiotics and using "traceability" systems so buyers know exactly where their fish came from. The government is also promising better cold-storage facilities and modern fishing harbors to reduce waste.

Shell saves the day for Indian farmers

NEW DELHI

In a major move to protect the nation's food security, energy giant Shell has stepped in to fill a massive gap in India's gas supply.

Recent conflicts in West Asia have disrupted traditional shipping routes from Qatar to India's top gas provider, leaving local industries scrambling for fuel. Shell has now successfully pivoted its global resources to ensure the lights stay on and the fields stay green.

The timing was critical. Last month, Indian fertiliser companies issued a massive urgent tender for 6 trillion British thermal units of liquefied natural gas (LNG). This gas is the vital "feedstock" used to create urea, the fertiliser that millions of Indian farmers rely on. Industry sources confirm that Shell dominated the bidding, securing a staggering 4 trillion units of that total.

This isn't just a business win, it is a logistical feat. Shell's Indian arm imported its largest-ever monthly volume of LNG this March to bypass the regional chaos. By leveraging its vast international network, the company managed to bypass the Gulf bottlenecks that had frozen other shipments.

For the Indian government, this shift provides a much-needed sigh of relief. With domestic urea production now shielded from the volatility of Middle Eastern shipping lanes, the agricultural sector can move into the summer season with confidence. While global tensions continue to simmer, the focus in New Delhi remains clear by keeping the supply lines open through new, reliable partnerships to ensure that every farmer has the tools they need to succeed.

MISCONDUCT PROBE

TCS suspends staff amid Nashik probe

NEW DELHI

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has suspended several employees following a series of serious allegations at its Nashik office.

The IT giant confirmed that it is fully cooperating with police as they investigate claims involving sexual harassment and forced religious conversion.

The controversy began in March after a female employee accused a colleague of abuse under the false promise of marriage. Since then, the situation has escalated, with authorities filing a total of nine FIRs. Police reports suggest a broader pattern of misconduct, leading to the arrest of at least six employees based on intelligence inputs.

In response, TCS reiterated its "zero-tolerance" policy regarding any form of harassment or coercion. The company stated it acted immediately once the details came to light and will take further disciplinary steps based on the final results of the inquiry. "We are committed to maintaining a safe workplace and are helping law enforcement in every way possible," the company noted in an official statement.

The case has caught the attention of Maharashtra's top leadership. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis described the developments as "very serious" and praised the Nashik police for their quick intervention. To ensure a thorough investigation, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been formed to dig deeper into the claims. Investigators are also questioning HR officials from Pune to see if internal red flags were missed. The SIT probe continues as the community waits for more details on this developing story.

India's coal imports drop as local stockpiles grow

NEW DELHI

India is making a major move toward energy independence. Recent data shows the country's coal imports plummeted by 8.5% this February, falling to 16.55 million tonnes. This shift marks a turning point as the nation chooses to tap into its own record-breaking reserves rather than buying expensive fuel from overseas.

The change is driven by a simple reality, global coal prices have stayed stubbornly high, while India's own mines are overflowing. For local power plants and factories, the choice was easy. Why pay a premium for shipments from across the ocean when there is a massive mountain of "home-grown" coal ready to be used?

Industry experts suggest this trend isn't just a one-off event. Mining companies are currently in a race against time, working feverishly to sell off their massive stockpiles before the intense summer heat arrives. This surge in domestic activity is helping the government meet its long-standing goal of self-reliance.

The Voice of Bollywood for Eight Decades:

Asha Bhosle Dies in Mumbai

Legendary playback singer and Padma Vibhushan awardee Asha Bhosle passed away on Sunday afternoon at the age of 92. The iconic singer, who defined the sound of Indian cinema for over eight decades, breathed her last at Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital following health complications. Bhosle was admitted to the hospital on Saturday evening after suffering from cardiac arrest and respiratory issues. Her death was confirmed by hospital authorities and her family on Sunday. Earlier on Saturday, her granddaughter, Zanai Bhosle, had shared an update on social media requesting privacy while noting that the singer was being treated for extreme exhaustion and a chest infection. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several prominent figures from the film industry had sent their prayers for her recovery throughout the morning.

A LIFE OF MELODY AND VERSATILITY

Born on September 8, 1933, in Sangli, Maharashtra, to classical singer Pandit Deenanath Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle began her musical journey alongside her elder sister, the late Lata Mangeshkar. After her father's early demise, the family moved to Mumbai, where she recorded her first song in 1943 for the Marathi film Majha Bal.

By the late 1940s, she had made her debut in Hindi cinema, eventually becoming the versatile voice that dominated the golden era of Bollywood. Renowned for her incredible range and soprano voice, she recorded over 12,000 songs in more than 20 Indian and foreign languages.

PERSONAL LIFE

Asha Bhosle married Ganpatrao Bhosle at a young age, but the marriage ended in separation. Later in life, she married music director R. D. Burman, forming one of the most famous creative partnerships in Indian music history. She has children from her first marriage and has also been a grandmother. Despite her personal challenges, she continued to focus on her musical career and professional growth.

EARLY CAREER STRUGGLES

Asha Bhosle began singing in films in 1943, when she was still a teenager. Her first recorded song was for the Marathi film industry, and soon she entered Hindi cinema playback singing. However, in the early phase of her career, she struggled to establish herself because the industry was dominated by more established singers.

During the 1940s and early 1950s, she was often assigned less prominent songs compared to her sister Lata Mangeshkar. Despite this, she continued working hard and gradually built her identity as a playback singer.

LEGACY AND INFLUENCE

Asha Bhosle is considered one of the greatest playback singers in Indian cinema history. Her ability to reinvent herself across decades allowed her to remain relevant in changing musical eras—from classical film music to modern pop and electronic fusion.

Together with her sister Lata Mangeshkar, she helped define the golden era of Indian film music. While Lata Mangeshkar was known for her purity and classical tone, Asha Bhosle was celebrated for her boldness, experimentation, and adaptability.

Even today, her songs continue to be widely listened to, remixed, and performed, making her a timeless figure in Indian cultural history.

Major Works and Contributions

Over her long career, Asha Bhosle has recorded more than 12,000 songs, making her one of the most recorded artists in the world.

Some of her most iconic songs include:

- Dum Maro Dum"
- "Piya Tu Ab To Aaja"
- "In Aankhon Ki Masti Ke"
- "Chura Liya Hai Tumne Jo Dil Ko"
- "Yeh Mera Dil"

Musical Style and Versatility

Asha Bhosle is known for her extraordinary versatility. Unlike many singers who specialized in one genre, she mastered a wide range of styles including:

- Bollywood playback songs
- Classical-based compositions
- Ghazals
- Bhajans (devotional songs)
- Qawwalis
- Pop and disco-style music
- Regional songs in Marathi, Bengali, Gujarati, Tamil, and many other languages

Her voice is known for its clarity, emotional range, and ability to adapt to different moods romantic, playful, sad, or energetic. Because of her flexibility, she was often the preferred choice for songs that required youthful or sensuous expression in films.

FROM CLASSICAL DEPTH TO CABARET ANTHEMS

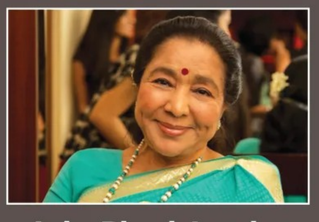
Bhosle's career was defined by her ability to master any genre. Whether it was the soulful ghazals of Umrao Jaan (1981)—which earned her a National Film Award—or the high-energy cabaret tracks like Piya Tu Ab Toh Aaja and Yeh Mera Dil, her vocal depth was unparalleled.

Her collaboration with music directors like O P Nayyar and R D Burman revolutionized the Indian music industry. In the 1990s, she continued her dominance by successfully adapting to modern pop beats, collaborating with A R Rahman on hits like Tanha Tanha and Rangeela Re.

She was the first Indian singer to be nominated for a Grammy Award (for the album Legacy with Ali Akbar Khan) and collaborated with international artists like Boy George.

MAJOR AWARDS & HONORS

- BHARAT RATNA: INDIA'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN HONOR.
- PADMA VIBHUSHAN (2008): THE SECOND-HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD.
- DADASAHEB PHALKE AWARD (2000): FOR HER LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION TO CINEMA.
- NATIONAL FILM AWARDS: WON TWICE, FOR UMRAO JAAN (1981) AND IJAAZAT (1986).
- GUINNESS WORLD RECORD: FORMALLY RECOGNIZED AS THE MOST RECORDED ARTIST IN MUSIC HISTORY, WITH OVER 12,000 SONGS.



Asha Bhosle's voice was the sound of reinvention. While her sister represented "purity," Asha represented "life"—the grit, the playfulness, and the experimentation of the human spirit. Her passing on April 12, 2026, leaves behind a monumental discography that remains the gold standard for aspiring musicians worldwide.

Pollution Caused by Wars

When we think of the devastation caused by wars, we think of lives lost, cities reduced to rubble, and economies shattered. Yet one of the most persistent and far-reaching consequences of armed conflict rarely makes the headlines the catastrophic environmental pollution that wars leave behind. From the toxic soils of World War I battlefields still laced with unexploded shells and chemical residues, to the burning oil wells of the Gulf War, to the depleted uranium dust scattered across Iraq, wars do not simply end when the fighting stops. Their environmental legacy can poison lands, waters, and air for decades sometimes centuries long after the last soldier has gone home.

Environmental pollution caused by armed conflict is a complex, multi-layered crisis. It affects not just the nations at war, but neighboring countries, global climate systems, and generations of civilians who had no part in the fighting. Yet international law has been slow to recognize environmental protection as a priority during and after warfare. This article examines the many dimensions of war-induced pollution from the battlefield to the atmosphere, from contaminated groundwater to poisoned food chains and argues that it is time the world treated environmental destruction in wartime as the serious crime it is.

But burning oil fields are just one chapter in the story of wartime air pollution. Military vehicles tanks, aircraft, naval vessels consume enormous quantities of fossil fuels. A single U.S. M1 Abrams tank burns roughly 60 gallons of fuel per hour. During sustained combat operations, the fuel consumption of a military force can exceed that of entire small nations. The carbon emissions from major military operations are rarely factored into national climate commitments, and many countries exclude their military's emissions from official reporting under international climate frameworks.

Bomb explosions and artillery fire also release particulate matter, heavy metals, and toxic gases directly into the air. Urban warfare, as seen in Syria, Libya, and Yemen in recent decades, turns entire cities into toxic dust clouds as concrete, asbestos, lead paint, and industrial chemicals are pulverized and become airborne. Civilians living in or near combat zones breathe this contaminated air, leading to elevated rates of respiratory illness, neurological damage, and cancer effects that continue long after the conflict ends.

Few images capture the environmental recklessness of war more vividly than the oil well fires of Kuwait in 1991. During the Gulf War, Iraqi forces set fire to over 700 Kuwaiti oil wells as they retreated. The resulting inferno burned for nearly ten months, releasing an estimated 1.5 billion barrels of oil into the atmosphere. The black smoke columns rose so high they blotted out the sun over parts of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for weeks. Soot, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and a cocktail of carcinogenic compounds rained down across the region and drifted as far as the Indian subcontinent.

IPL 2026: Prasidh stars with four-for as GT seal second straight win

Clinical bowling and composed chase help Gujarat Titans outclass LSG comfortably

LUCKNOW

Gujarat Titans continued their upward momentum in IPL 2026 with a commanding seven-wicket victory over Lucknow Super Giants, riding on a brilliant four-wicket haul from Prasidh Krishna and a fluent batting display led by Jos Buttler and Shubman Gill.

Put in to bat, LSG never quite found rhythm as Prasidh Krishna dismantled the middle order with disciplined short-ball tactics.

He finished with impressive figures, repeatedly forcing batters into mistimed pulls and catches in the deep. His breakthroughs, including key dismissals of Aiden Markram and Ayush Badoni in quick succession, left LSG struggling at 74 for 4 inside the first 10 overs.

Mohammed Siraj provided early impetus by removing skipper Rishabh Pant, while tight spells from Rashid Khan and others ensured there was no recovery. Nicholas Pooran's scratchy innings further summed up LSG's woes, as he failed to accelerate. Late contributions from the lower order helped LSG reach a modest total near the 150-mark, but it was always going to be a challenging defence.

In response, Gujarat Titans approached the chase with authority. Jos Buttler set the tone with a blistering half-century, reaching the milestone in just 29 balls and keeping the scoreboard ticking during the powerplay. Shubman Gill complemented him perfectly, anchoring the innings with a classy fifty and maintaining control against both pace and spin.

Though LSG tried to claw back with a few wickets, the target never looked out of reach. Washington Sundar added the finishing touches with a quick cameo, striking a couple of boundaries and a six to seal the chase with eight balls to spare.

Earlier in the innings, there were injury concerns for LSG as Mohammed Shami briefly left the field and Prince Yadav took a painful blow on his hand, further compounding their struggles on a difficult day.

With this win, Gujarat Titans registered their second consecutive victory, gaining valuable momentum in the tournament. Meanwhile, LSG will need to reassess their batting inconsistencies and execution with the ball as the competition intensifies.

Milan's Title Dreams Collapse after Shock Udinese Defeat

Heavy home loss leaves Milan struggling, Juventus boost top four hopes.

MILAN

AC Milan saw their Serie A title ambitions effectively crumble after a stunning 3-0 home defeat to Udinese, while Juventus climbed into the top four with a crucial win over Atalanta.

The loss at San Siro left Milan nine points adrift of leaders Inter Milan with just six matches remaining, making their title challenge virtually impossible. Regardless of Inter's result against Como, the gap appears too wide for the third-placed Rossoneri to bridge.

Udinese stunned the home crowd with a clinical first-half display. A Davide Bartesaghi own goal opened the scoring before Jurgen Ekkelenkamp doubled the lead with a well-placed header. The visitors sealed the emphatic victory in the 71st minute when Arthur Atta finished smartly after a swift attacking move.

A standout performer for Udinese was Nicolo Zaniolo, whose creativity and energy troubled Milan throughout. He played a key role in the opening goal and delivered a precise assist for the second, underlining his resurgence after a difficult few seasons. Milan's response after the break lacked cutting edge despite increased attacking intent. Alexis Saelemaekers came close to reducing the deficit, only to be denied by a fine save from goalkeeper Maduka Okoye, who tipped his effort onto the crossbar.

The defeat marked Milan's third loss in four matches, intensifying pressure on coach Massimiliano Allegri, who admitted that even Champions League qualification is now under threat. Frustration among fans was evident, with boos echoing around the stadium at full-time.

Meanwhile, Juventus secured a narrow 1-0 victory over Atalanta thanks to a goal from Jeremie Boga, strengthening their push for a top-four finish. The win comes shortly after coach Luciano Spalletti extended his contract until 2028.

With a crucial clash between Milan and Juventus looming, the battle for Champions League spots is set to intensify as the Serie A season approaches its decisive phase.

Arsenal Stumble in Title Race, Brentford Held in Top-Five Battle

LONDON

Arsenal suffered a major setback in their Premier League title pursuit with a 2-1 home defeat to AFC Bournemouth, while Brentford were denied victory in a dramatic 2-2 draw against Everton.

At the Emirates Stadium, Arsenal's nine-match unbeaten league run came to an abrupt halt as Bournemouth delivered a spirited performance to reignite the title race. Despite remaining nine points clear, Mikel Arteta's side now face mounting pressure from Manchester City, who have games in hand and a crucial clash against Arsenal looming.

Bournemouth struck first through 19-year-old Eli Junior Kroupi, who tapped in at the far post in the 17th minute. The youngster's 10th league goal of the season marked a rare achievement for a teenager in his debut campaign.

Arsenal responded when Viktor Gyokeres converted a penalty after a handball decision against Ryan Christie. However, the hosts struggled to find rhythm and were punished in the second half when Alex Scott calmly slotted home the winner after being set up by Evanilson.

Arteta described the defeat as a "big punch," acknowledging his side fell short of expected standards in a crucial stage of the season.

In another key fixture, Brentford twice took the lead but failed to secure all three points against Everton. Igor Thiago starred for the hosts with a brace, taking his season tally to 21 goals and setting a new club record.

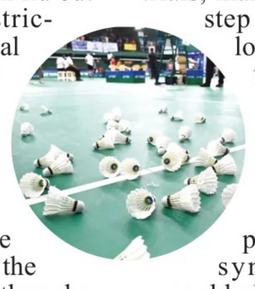
Everton responded through Beto and a dramatic stoppage-time equaliser from Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall to snatch a draw and keep their European hopes alive.The result leaves both Brentford and Everton on 47 points, just behind Liverpool in fifth, with the race for Champions League spots intensifying following UEFA's confirmation that the top five will qualify.

Synthetic Shuttle Trials Stir Debate across Badminton Fraternity

BENGALURU

The Badminton World Federation's decision to trial synthetic shuttlecocks has sparked widespread debate, as concerns over performance, tradition and supply challenges ripple through the badminton community.

At the heart of the issue lies a growing shortage of natural feathers, the key component in traditional shuttlecocks. Each shuttle requires 16 feathers, typically sourced from the left wing of geese or ducks, making the sport heavily dependent on poultry health and population trends, particularly in major manufacturing hubs like China. Factors such as avian flu outbreaks, export restrictions and rising global demand have strained supply chains, prompting the governing body to explore alternatives.



In response, the BWF has approved the use of synthetic shuttlecocks in Grade 3 and junior international tournaments as part of a broader evaluation process. Products such as the VICTOR New Carbon Sonic Max and the YONEX Crosswind 70 have been selected for initial trials, marking a significant step towards potential long-term change in the sport.

However, the move has divided opinion. Former India international Vimal Kumar expressed concern that synthetic shuttles could alter the essence of the game, particularly by shortening rallies and reducing the physical intensity that defines elite badminton.

Bayern Break 54-Year Goal Record, Close in on Bundesliga Title

BERLIN

Bayern Munich delivered a record-breaking performance with a resounding 5-0 victory over FC St. Pauli, surpassing a 54-year-old Bundesliga goalscoring record and moving within touching distance of another league title.

The Bavarian giants eclipsed their own long-standing record set during the 1971-72 season — a legendary era featuring icons such as Franz Beckenbauer, Gerd Muller and Uli Hoeness — by taking their tally to 102 league goals this season. By full-time, the total had risen to an astonishing 105.

Midfielder Leon Goretzka scored the landmark goal early in the second half, sealing Bayern's place in Bundesliga history. Coach Vincent Kompany revealed he had anticipated the milestone, stating his confidence that the team would surpass the decades-old mark.

Despite resting star striker Harry Kane, Bayern's attacking strength was on full display. Jamal Musiala opened the scoring, while Michael Olise, Nicolas Jackson and Raphael Guerreiro added further goals in a comprehensive win. The victory extended Bayern's lead at the top of the table to 12 points after Borussia Dortmund suffered a 1-0 defeat to Bayer Leverkusen. With five matches remaining, Bayern could secure their 35th Bundesliga title as early as next week. Elsewhere, Leverkusen's win was secured by a long-range strike from Robert Andrich, ending Dortmund's strong run. Meanwhile, RB Leipzig boosted their top-four hopes with a narrow victory, thanks to a late goal from rising talent Yan Diomande.

At the other end of the table, VfL Wolfsburg slipped closer to relegation after defeat, while kept their survival hopes alive with a crucial win.

With records tumbling and the title within reach, Bayern Munich's relentless march underscores their continued dominance in German football.

KERALA BLASTERS DENT BFC TITLE HOPES WITH COMEBACK VICTORY

BENGALURU

Kerala Blasters FC dealt a significant blow to Bengaluru FC's title ambitions with a spirited 2-1 comeback win in the Indian Super League, spoiling the debut of new head coach Pep Munoz at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium.

The defeat was largely self-inflicted by Bengaluru FC, who lost control of the contest after Argentine midfielder Braian Sanchez was sent off in the 34th minute following an off-the-ball altercation with Matias Hernandez. Reduced to 10 men, the hosts struggled to maintain their early momentum despite taking the lead.

Bengaluru had gone ahead in the 27th minute when a defensive mix-up saw Fallou Ndiaye inadvertently turn the ball into his own net under pressure.

The goal capped a promising spell, with Rahul Bheke and Ryan Williams combining effectively to trouble the Blasters' defence.

However, the complexion of the game changed dramatically after Sanchez's dismissal. Forced to defend deeper, Bengaluru attempted to hit on the counter but lacked the numbers and cutting edge to capitalize on their limited opportunities.

Kerala Blasters gradually took control and found the equaliser in the 61st minute through Victor Bertomeu, who finished calmly after a swift attacking move orchestrated by Ebindas Y. With the numerical advantage telling, the visitors continued to press forward.

The decisive moment came in the 79th minute when substitute Franchu Feuillassier exploited space on the flank and slotted home the winner, completing a remarkable turnaround for the struggling side.

The victory ended Kerala Blasters' seven-match winless run and provided a crucial boost in their fight to move away from the relegation zone. For Bengaluru FC, however, the loss leaves them in fourth place with 14 points from eight matches, now trailing league leaders Mumbai City FC by four points.

With the season intensifying, Bengaluru FC will need to quickly regroup as their title challenge faces a serious setback.

BLASTERS STUN BENGALURU IN MUNOZ DEBUT

Kerala Blasters FC came from behind to beat Bengaluru FC 2-1, spoiling Pep Munoz debut. Reduced to 10 men after Braian Sanchez's red card, Bengaluru faltered despite leading. Goals from Victor Bertomeu and Franchu Feuillassier sealed a crucial win, ending Blasters' winless streak and denting Bengaluru's title hopes.

Yamal Stars as Barcelona Thrash Espanyol, Extend La Liga Lead

BARCELONA

Lamine Yamal delivered another electrifying performance as FC Barcelona cruised to a 4-1 derby victory over RCD Espanyol, stretching their lead at the top of La Liga.

The teenage winger was at the heart of Barcelona's dominance, setting up two goals and scoring one himself in a commanding display at Camp Nou. His brilliance helped the Catalan giants move nine points clear of second-placed Real Madrid, who had dropped points in a 1-1 draw with Girona. Ferran Torres opened the scoring, heading home from Yamal's pinpoint corner before doubling the lead with a composed finish after being set up again by the youngster's exquisite outside-of-the-boot pass.

Barcelona controlled proceedings with ease, pinning Espanyol back for long stretches. Coach Hansi Flick fielded a strong lineup despite an upcoming UEFA Champions League clash against Atletico Madrid, underlining his focus on maintaining momentum in the league. Midfield maestro Pedri also played the full match as Barcelona ensured there was no complacency. Espanyol briefly threatened when Tyrhys Dolan struck the crossbar, but they struggled to contain Barcelona's fluid attack. They managed a consolation goal through Pol Lozano, who capitalised on a defensive lapse.

Barcelona sealed the result late in the game. Yamal reacted quickest to a loose ball to score the third in the 87th minute, while Marcus Rashford added a fourth with a well-taken volley, marking a confidence-boosting moment after recent struggles. The victory further cements Barcelona's position as favourites to retain the La Liga title, with seven matches remaining, including a crucial El Clasico clash against Real Madrid.

IPL 2026: Samson's Calm Mirrors Dhoni as Simons Hails Match-Winning Century

Composed approach and belief guide Samson to historic IPL milestone performance

CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) bowling coach Eric Simons has lauded Sanju Samson for his calm temperament, comparing his mindset to that of legendary skipper MS Dhoni after a stunning century against the Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League 2026 clash.

Speaking after the match, Simons highlighted the striking similarity in composure between Dhoni and Samson, noting that both players thrive under pressure without succumbing to panic or over-preparation. He described Dhoni as one of the calmest cricketers he has encountered and said Samson reflects a comparable sense of assurance and clarity in his approach to the game.

After a quiet start to the season, Samson roared back into form with a magnificent unbeaten 115 off just 56 balls at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. His innings, laced with 11 fours and four sixes, came at a blistering strike rate of over 200, silencing critics and reaffirming his class.

Simons stressed that players of Samson's calibre inevitably overcome lean patches, adding that there was never any doubt about his ability. He pointed out that temporary failures are part of the game and that confidence, patience, and trust in one's skills are crucial for success at the highest level. Saturday's knock was historic, as Samson became the first player in IPL history to score centuries for three different franchises. He had previously notched up hundreds for Rajasthan Royals and Delhi Capitals, making this milestone even more significant.

In addition, Samson reached another landmark by surpassing 400 sixes in T20 cricket, joining an elite list of Indian batters that includes Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Suryakumar Yadav.

With this commanding performance, Samson has not only announced his arrival at CSK but also reinforced his reputation as one of the most elegant and resilient batters in the modern game.

IPL 2026: Gaikwad Admits Bowling Lacks X-Factor

CHENNAI

Ruturaj Gaikwad acknowledged that Chennai Super Kings lack an "X-factor" in their bowling attack but credited collective execution and improved intent for their crucial win over Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League 2026 season.

Ending a six-match losing streak at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, CSK finally opened their account this season with a comprehensive performance that saw both batters and bowlers deliver under pressure. The long-awaited victory also marked a revival of their fortress at Chepauk after a string of disappointing results at home.

Speaking after the match, Gaikwad expressed satisfaction at the team's turnaround, highlighting the importance of being more proactive with the ball. While admitting that the bowling unit may not boast standout match-winners, he emphasised that discussions within the squad had focused on maintaining discipline and attacking lengths.

He credited Sanju Samson for setting the tone with a magnificent unbeaten 115, supported well by Ayush Mhatre's fluent half-century. The duo powered CSK to a formidable total of 212/2 on a relatively slow surface, giving the bowlers a strong platform to defend.

Gaikwad noted that despite an early setback during the powerplay, the bowlers responded admirably by picking up regular wickets and maintaining pressure through the middle overs. Jamie Overton led the charge with an impressive four-wicket haul, while Kamboj provided crucial support with three wickets.

In response, Delhi Capitals showed glimpses of resistance through Pathum Nissanka and KL Rahul, who stitched together a promising partnership. Tristan Stubbs added a late flourish with a quickfire 60, but the target proved too steep as CSK's bowlers maintained control.

Despite a difficult run since last season, Gaikwad praised the unwavering support of CSK fans, calling them passionate and deeply connected to the franchise.

With this win, CSK climbed off the bottom with renewed confidence, while Delhi Capitals remained in the upper half of the table, reflecting a competitive start to their campaign.

IPL 2026: Royals Manager Faces Possible Ban for Dugout Phone Use Controversy

NEW DELHI

Rajasthan Royals team manager Romi Bhinder is under scrutiny and could face disciplinary action after being spotted using a mobile phone in the dugout during an Indian Premier League match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

The incident, which came to light after television cameras captured Bhinder on his phone during the Royals' six-wicket win in Guwahati, has been confirmed as a breach of the Players and Match Officials Area (PMOA) protocol. According to regulations set by the Board of Control for Cricket in India, mobile phones are strictly prohibited in the dugout during matches, although limited use is permitted inside the dressing room.

A senior BCCI official acknowledged the violation, stating that Bhinder had indeed breached established guidelines. The matter has now been referred for further review, with possible consequences ranging from a formal warning to a match ban, depending on the findings of the match referee and the Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU).

Sources within the cricketing fraternity noted that Bhinder, a long-time member of the Rajasthan Royals setup since the franchise's inception, is expected to be fully aware of such protocols. While the breach may have been inadvertent, officials stressed that any deviation from anti-corruption measures is taken seriously given the league's strict integrity framework. The controversy gained additional attention after young cricketer Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who was seated beside Bhinder during the match, referred to him as his "local guardian" in a post-match interaction. This has prompted calls for closer scrutiny of the incident and its implications. The IPL's governing council is expected to take a final call once detailed reports are submitted. The episode serves as a reminder of the stringent rules governing conduct within restricted areas during matches.

McIlroy Sizzles to Record Six-Shot Lead at Masters

AUGUSTA

Rory McIlroy produced a breathtaking display of shot-making to storm into a record six-shot lead at the halfway stage of the Masters Tournament, delivering one of the most electrifying finishes in Major history.

The world number two caught fire over the closing stretch of his second round, carding birdies on six of the final seven holes to sign for a superb seven-under-par 65. That effort lifted him to 12-under-par 132 after 36 holes at the iconic Augusta National Golf Club, eclipsing the previous tournament record for the largest halfway lead of five strokes.

McIlroy's sensational run began with a seven-foot birdie at the par-three 12th, followed by another at the 13th. He maintained the momentum with a 10-foot conversion at the 15th and a short putt at the 16th before producing the highlight of the day — holing out a remarkable 29-yard pitch at the 17th for birdie.

He capped the charge in style at the 18th, hitting a precise approach to six feet and calmly sinking the putt to secure his fourth consecutive birdie and a place in Masters history.

Trailing far behind, Patrick Reed and Sam Burns shared second place at 138 after rounds of 69, with Reed missing a crucial six-foot putt on the final hole that would have kept him closer to the leader.

A group of contenders remained within striking distance of each other but well adrift of McIlroy.

Justin Rose, Tommy Fleetwood, and Shane Lowry were tied for fourth on 139, hoping to mount a weekend challenge.

Further down the leaderboard, notable names including Jason Day and Xander Schauffele remained in contention but faced a daunting task to close the gap.

SAINYAM ACHIEVES CAREER-BEST FIFTH PLACE AT ISSF WC

NEW DELHI

Sainyam delivered a standout performance to secure her best-ever finish at an ISSF World Cup, claiming an impressive fifth place in the women's 10m air pistol event in Granada, Spain. The former junior world and Asian champion showed remarkable consistency, finishing with a score of 178.9 in the final. Her performance marked a significant milestone in her senior career, underlining her steady rise on the global shooting circuit.

Fellow Indian shooter Palak, the reigning Asian Games champion, also made it to the final and secured seventh place. She exited after the 14th shot in the 24-shot final with a score of 137.9, rounding off a commendable showing for the Indian contingent.

In the qualification round, Sainyam displayed excellent form, shooting 582 to finish third among a competitive field of 83 shooters. Palak, too, impressed with a score of 577, finishing seventh to qualify for the final eight.

The gold medal in the event was claimed by Shen Yiyao of China, who dominated the final with a score of 244.2, showcasing exceptional precision and control under pressure.

IPL 2026: Survyanshi is too mature for a 15-year-old: Bhuvneshwar

GUWAHATI

Bhuvneshwar Kumar hailed teenage sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi for his remarkable composure and strokeplay, calling him "too mature" for a 15-year-old after his match-winning performance in the Indian Premier League 2026 clash.

Representing Rajasthan Royals, Suryavanshi dismantled the Royal Challengers Bengaluru bowling attack with a sensational innings that turned the game decisively in his team's favour during the PowerPlay. His fearless yet technically sound batting ensured Rajasthan maintained their unbeaten run in the tournament.

Bhuvneshwar, reflecting on the contest, emphasised that the youngster's batting was not mere slogging but a display of proper cricketing shots and game awareness. He noted that such maturity at a young age is rare and credited Suryavanshi for executing his strokes with precision and confidence under pressure. Despite posting a competitive total of 201 for eight, RCB struggled to contain the Royals' aggressive chase. Bhuvneshwar pointed out that contributions from Rajat Patidar and Venkatesh Iyer had helped the team reach a par score, even after losing early wickets. However, he admitted that Suryavanshi's explosive approach in the early overs effectively took the game away.

The veteran pacer acknowledged that while RCB fought hard and stretched the contest deep into the innings, they were unable to fully implement their strategies on the field. He described such setbacks as part of the unpredictable nature of T20 cricket and maintained that the team was not overly concerned.

Bhuvneshwar also highlighted a tactical limitation, noting that the side lacked variety in spin options after opting for an Impact Player, which left them short of both a leg-spinner and an off-break bowler. This, he explained, made it easier for left-handed batters to settle against the available attack.

Vaishali Extends Lead in Women's Candidates, Sindarov Dominates Open Section

PEGEIA

R. Vaishali strengthened her grip at the top of the Women's Candidates chess tournament with a crucial victory in the 11th round, extending her lead to a full point with just three rounds remaining.

The Chennai Grandmaster defeated Aleksandra Goryachkina in a tightly contested encounter, capitalising on a late error to take her tally to seven points. In a rook-and-minor-piece endgame, Goryachkina's misjudged bishop move proved decisive, allowing Vaishali to gain a material advantage and steer the game towards an inevitable checkmate, prompting her opponent's resignation.

Vaishali's position at the summit was further strengthened by Divya Deshmukh, who held second seed Zhu Jiner to a draw. Zhu now shares second place with Anna Muzychuk on six points, giving Vaishali a slender but significant cushion as the tournament enters its decisive phase.

With momentum firmly on her side, Vaishali appears well-positioned to push for a historic finish, showcasing composure and tactical sharpness against a strong international field.

In the open section, Javokhir Sindarov continued his dominant run, maintaining a commanding two-point lead after drawing with second seed Fabiano Caruana. The 20-year-old Uzbek now stands on eight points, underlining his consistency and control throughout the tournament.

Anish Giri remained in contention with six points after drawing his game against Andrey Esipenko, while the remaining encounters in the open category also ended in draws, reflecting the evenly matched competition among the top players.

Notably, Hikaru Nakamura and Wei Yi shared the spoils, as did R. Praggnanandhaa and Matthias Bluebaum.

As the tournament heads into its final rounds, Vaishali's lead in the women's section and Sindarov's dominance in the open draw focus, with both players edging closer to potentially career-defining triumphs on the global stage.

R. Vaishali extends Women's Candidates lead; Javokhir Sindarov dominates open section nearing title triumph

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